

EXHIBIT 4

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
IN AND FOR THE DISTRICT OF WYOMING

STEPHANIE WADSWORTH,)
individually and as)
Parent and Legal) CASE NO.
Guardian of W.W., K.W.,) 2:23-cv-00118-NDF
G.W., and L.W., minor)
children, and MATTHEW)
WADSWORTH,)
Plaintiffs,)
v.)
WALMART, INC. and JETSON)
ELECTRIC BIKES, LLC,)
Defendants.)

ORAL DEPOSITION OF

DEREK A. KING, M.S., P.E.

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024

REPORTED BY:

DEBRA A. DIBBLE, FAPR, RDR, CRR, CRC, Notary Public

California CSR 14345

JOB NO. 44990

1 ORAL DEPOSITION OF DEREK A. KING, M.S., P.E.,
2 produced as a witness at the instance of the
3 Defendant Jetson Electric Bikes, LLC, and duly
4 sworn, was taken in the above-styled and numbered
5 cause on the above-referenced date, from 9:38 a.m.
6 to 3:46 p.m. PDT, before Debra A. Dibble, CSR, CCR,
7 RDR, CRR, Fellow of the Academy of Professional
8 Reporters and California CSR 14345, reported by
9 realtime stenographic means at the Doubletree
10 Berkeley Marina, 200 Marina Boulevard, Berkeley,
11 California, pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil
12 Procedure.

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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August 19, 2024, 9:38 a.m. PDT

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DEREK A. KING, M.S., P.E.,

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having been first duly sworn,

7

testified as follows:

8

EXAMINATION

9

10 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

11 Q. Dr. King, my name is Eugene LaFlamme. We
12 met quickly off the record. In fact, I think we met
13 back in February or so, whenever we were out at your
14 location as well, correct?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. I represent the defendants in this case.
17 You understand that you have been presented as an
18 electrical battery expert in this case, correct?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. I understand you've had your deposition
21 taken before, as I have your testimony list. And it
22 looks like over the past, I don't know how many
23 years this goes back, three or four years, about six
24 depositions?

25 A. Sounds right.

1 Q. Since you are familiar with the process,
2 I won't belabor all of the traditional five minutes
3 of instructions that we go through for witnesses,
4 unless you want me to. But the -- I did want to get
5 a couple out, the most important two, from my
6 perspective, are making sure that we're
7 communicating. So if you don't understand one of my
8 questions, don't hear it for whatever reason, let me
9 know. I will rephrase it or have it read back,
10 whatever is appropriate in the circumstances. Okay?

11 A. Yep. Sounds good.

12 Q. If you answer a question as worded, we're
13 going to presume that you are doing your best to
14 give an honest answer to that question.

15 Fair enough?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. All right. Could you please state your
18 full name for the record?

19 A. Derek Arthur King.

20 Q. And where are you currently employed?

21 A. Berkeley Engineering and Research.

22 Q. For simplicity purposes, are you okay if
23 I call it BEAR?

24 A. Yes, please.

25 MR. LAFLAMME: And, Debbie, that's

1 all capitalized, B-E-A-R.

2 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

3 Q. What is your position at BEAR currently?

4 A. Engineer.

5 Q. And any particular designation for
6 engineer?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Or is engineer the title?

9 A. That's it.

10 Q. All right. How many engineers total are
11 at BEAR?

12 A. Six, I believe.

13 Q. And how many employees total are at BEAR?

14 A. I'd say nine, maybe ten.

15 Q. So fair to state that the additional
16 three to four employees, are they on the admin side?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. When were you first hired on this case?

19 A. For this case? I actually don't
20 remember. Yeah, I don't recall when we were
21 retained.

22 Q. Do you recall that we had a lab
23 inspection at your location, I think it was in --
24 was it in February of this year?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. How long before that lab inspection had
2 you been retained?

3 A. I would estimate six months, but...
4 that's just an estimate. I think we could look at a
5 retainer document to get a specific date.

6 Q. And that was not in your file, which is
7 why I'm asking this.

8 A. Oh, sorry.

9 Q. That's all right. So you think it was
10 about six months prior to the lab inspection at your
11 location?

12 A. I believe so. Approximately.

13 Q. So that would be sometime, third or
14 fourth quarter or so, of 2023?

15 A. Yeah. I feel like it was possibly in the
16 summer. Summer of 2023.

17 Q. Is there anyone else from BEAR that has
18 worked on this case, the Wadsworth case, besides
19 you?

20 A. Yeah. I discussed the case with other
21 people. Yeah.

22 Q. When you say you've discussed the case,
23 are those just general discussions about the case or
24 were they actually doing substantive work on this
25 file as well?

1 A. General discussions.

2 Q. And who else would you have had those
3 general discussions with?

4 A. That would be David Rondinone.

5 Q. Can you spell Rondinone?

6 A. Yes, Rondinone is R-O-N-D-I-N-O-N-E.

7 Yeah. Also, probably with Glen Stevick
8 as well as Rong Yuan, R-O-N-G, Y-U-E-N, I believe.

9 Q. Anyone else?

10 A. I don't think so.

11 Q. It sounds like David Rondinone would have
12 been the person that you would have talked to the
13 most out of the three on this case? Or is that not
14 accurate?

15 A. No, I -- in terms of volume and
16 discussion, probably Rong, the most.

17 Q. And did any of these three individuals
18 that you spoke with at BEAR have any input in your
19 report that you have issued in this case?

20 A. No input other than like an editing
21 review.

22 Q. So at least as far as the substantive
23 work that BEAR has done on this case, it sounds like
24 that has been done by you, correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And then these other three individuals
2 that you've had some general discussions with about
3 this case, they've been general or related to
4 editing of your report?

5 A. Right.

6 Q. And when we discuss editing of the
7 report, that isn't substantive editing, more
8 stylistic or typographical-type editing?

9 A. That's right.

10 (King Deposition Exhibit 69 marked.)

11 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

12 Q. Mr. King, I'm going to show you what's
13 been marked as Exhibit 69. And this is a copy of
14 the testimony list that was provided.

15 How far back does this testimony list go?

16 A. It says 2022.

17 Q. And understanding that the last date is
18 2022, do you have depositions and court testimony
19 that would go back further in time?

20 A. No.

21 Q. No?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Okay. So the testimony list that we're
24 looking at here, this is all-encompassing for your
25 deposition and trial testimony for your career at

1 BEAR?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And in looking at your testimony list for
4 the six depositions that you have given, do any of
5 these relate to a fire case?

6 MR. AYALA: Form.

7 A. No, they don't.

8 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

9 Q. Okay. And let me just clean that up a
10 little bit. Do any of the depositions that you have
11 given for your career at BEAR, do any of them
12 involve any issues related to one of the products
13 allegedly starting a fire?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And I do see there is a Future Motion
16 claim on here. Zinetti, Z-I-N-E-T-T-I, is the
17 plaintiff?

18 Do you see that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And Future Motion is Onewheel. Right?

21 A. Right.

22 Q. Was that a nose-down issue?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And nose-down meaning when you're riding
25 the Onewheel, the front end goes down and someone

1 catapults off?

2 A. Right.

3 Q. Do any of the depositions that you have
4 given relate at all to any cases that would involve
5 an allegation of lithium-ion battery failures?

6 A. No.

7 Q. And the Onewheel case, the Future Motion
8 matter, that was a case you had with Morgan &
9 Morgan, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Have you had other cases with Morgan &
12 Morgan?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. How many other cases have you had with
15 Morgan & Morgan?

16 A. Probably in the dozens.

17 Q. Dozens, plural?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Meaning 24 or more?

20 A. Yes. Likely.

21 I should clarify, that's for -- that
22 would be for BEAR as a whole, not necessarily
23 myself.

24 Q. Okay. Understood. I appreciate that
25 clarification.

1 So for BEAR as a whole, in their work
2 with Morgan & Morgan, it's been somewhere in the
3 neighborhood of 24-plus cases?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And then how about for you individually?

6 A. A few. Maybe five.

7 Q. For any of the other five or so cases
8 that you have personally worked on with Morgan &
9 Morgan, have any of them involved an allegation of a
10 product failure that involved a fire?

11 A. I don't believe so.

12 Q. How many cases have you handled in your
13 career that involved an allegation of a product
14 failure that resulted in a fire?

15 A. So I've been involved through working
16 with the other engineers in, I would say, dozens of
17 fire-related cases.

18 Q. How many in which you are the named
19 expert from BEAR on a case involving a fire claim?

20 A. Approximately three to five.

21 Q. And what were the products involved in
22 those cases?

23 A. One was a -- possibly a refrigerator and
24 related wiring. Another was -- actually, another
25 refrigerator. Another was batteries in a boat.

1 Another was -- I believe it was -- it was
2 in a dry cleaner. We actually didn't get very far
3 in that investigation, so...

4 Q. So for the other fire claims in which you
5 have been the identified expert, or the primary
6 engineer from BEAR, we have two refrigerator cases,
7 one battery -- or marine battery case, and then a
8 case at a dry cleaner facility?

9 A. Yes. There was another one. It was an
10 appliance -- appliance and wiring at a house.

11 Q. What type of appliance?

12 A. That wasn't -- we -- that wasn't clear.
13 We didn't get very far in that investigation.

14 Q. Fair to state that you have never been
15 the primary expert or an identified expert by a
16 party that is claiming that there was a lithium-ion
17 battery failure that caused a fire?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. We'll mark your CV as 70.

20 (King Deposition Exhibit 70 marked.)

21 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

22 Q. There you go, Mr. King.

23 Mr. King, I've handed you what's been
24 marked as Exhibit 70, which is a copy of the CV that
25 was produced in this case. And it looks like you

1 started at BEAR back in 2009, correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. You have your education listed, BS from
4 UC Berkeley. What date was that or what year?

5 A. That was 2009.

6 Q. And then you got an MS in electrical from
7 Ohio University. What year was that?

8 A. 2020.

9 Q. And what have been your various jobs at
10 BEAR? Understanding you're currently an engineer;
11 what did you start out as?

12 A. Engineer.

13 Q. Okay. So you've had the same job title
14 since you started in 2009?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. When did you start doing expert witness
17 work to the extent that you were the named expert by
18 parties?

19 A. That would be maybe -- maybe around 2020.

20 Q. Okay. And prior to 2020, would you have
21 been more in the assistive-type role?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. When you got your electrical engineering
24 degree from Ohio University, did you go back to --
25 or did you go to Ohio for a couple of years in

1 person or was that online?

2 A. Online.

3 Q. And how long did it take you to complete
4 that degree?

5 A. I think it was two and a half years.
6 Yeah.

7 Q. Did any of it involve in-person at Ohio
8 U?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And prior to your work at BEAR, it looks
11 like you did some work with a company called
12 Berkeley Engineering and Research Inc.

13 A. That is BEAR.

14 Q. Oh, I'm sorry. I read that wrong.
15 You did some work at Lawrence Berkeley
16 National Laboratories.

17 A. Oh, yes. That was an internship that
18 turned into a part-time job.

19 Q. And when were you at Lawrence Berkeley?

20 A. I believe 2007 and '8, approximately.

21 Q. So this would --

22 Sorry, go ahead.

23 A. Approximately.

24 Q. So this would have been -- you would have
25 started there when you were in undergrad at

1 UC Berkeley?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And then I think you -- which is probably
4 why you couched it as an internship, correct?

5 A. Mm-hmm. (Witness nods.)

6 Q. Did --

7 A. Yes. Yes, that's how it started.

8 Q. And then it looks like it then went -- or
9 became an assistant engineer position, correct?

10 A. Yes. Yes, it did.

11 Q. Was the assistant engineer designation,
12 was that given to you before or after you graduated
13 UC Berkeley?

14 A. We're still talking about at Lawrence?

15 Q. At Lawrence, correct.

16 A. I was not at Lawrence after I graduated.
17 So that -- so the internship was a three-month,
18 approximately, two to three months for the summer.
19 And then I was hired on to stay.

20 Q. So how long in total was your position
21 with Lawrence Berkeley?

22 A. It was about a year, year and a half.

23 Q. So towards the end of your undergrad it
24 sounds like you got a summer internship there, and
25 then that led to a part-time assistant engineering

1 job during -- was it your last year of school?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. And then once you graduated from
4 UC Berkeley, that's when you went to work for BEAR?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Was that job at BEAR, was -- did you have
7 any jobs in between BEAR and the time you graduated
8 UC Berkeley?

9 A. No.

10 Q. So it sounds like, for all intents and
11 purposes, for your professional career, it has
12 always been at BEAR?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Have you ever -- or strike that.
15 You haven't ever worked for a company
16 that designs or manufactures lithium-ion battery
17 products, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And you have never personally designed or
20 manufactured a lithium-ion battery product, correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And you have never been involved in the
23 design or manufacture of a lithium-ion battery pack,
24 correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Are you a member of any professional
2 organizations?

3 A. No.

4 Q. And I know you -- on your CV you have the
5 PE designation. When did you get that?

6 A. I believe that was in -- I think that was
7 in the fall of 2023.

8 Q. So approximately a year ago is when you
9 got your PE designation?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. And where are you licensed as a PE?

12 A. California.

13 Q. Any other states?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And I take it you have never been on a --
16 any of the UL technical committees?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. You haven't been on any of the NFPA
19 technical committees?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. No ANSI technical committees?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And really, no technical committees of
24 any standard-issuing organization, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. In the Lawrence Berkeley National
2 Laboratories business, I just pulled them up quickly
3 online. It looks like their focus was on
4 environmental issues and energy efficiency issues?

5 A. For the project I worked on, yes.

6 Q. And was the project that you worked on --
7 it looks like it was related to energy loss in
8 residential hot water systems?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So basically trying to figure out how to
11 have the system hold or maintain hot water longer?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What is the rate that you charge for your
14 work in this case?

15 A. BEAR charges, I believe it's 200 an hour
16 for my work, and they charge 350 an hour for
17 testimony.

18 Q. Did you say 350?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So 200 an hour for your forensic work,
21 correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And then the 350 per hour for testimony,
24 that would be, number one, what we're doing here
25 today, right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And is it the same charge for trial
3 testimony?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you know how much you have billed to
6 date on this case?

7 A. I don't.

8 Q. Has BEAR generated any invoices for their
9 work on this case?

10 A. Probably. I would assume over the course
11 of being retained that they have.

12 Q. That wasn't in your expert file. Is that
13 something you have access to?

14 A. I can request it.

15 Q. So for items related to your work in this
16 case that weren't in your expert file but it sounds
17 like you have access to would be, number one, the
18 retainer agreement. Right?

19 MR. AYALA: I think that was in
20 there, Eugene.

21 MR. LAFLAMME: Was it?

22 MR. AYALA: Yeah, I think so.

23 MR. LAFLAMME: Certainly possible I
24 missed it.

25 MR. AYALA: In that first subfolder

1 under BEAR Administrative, or -- I think
2 that's the label.

3 MR. LAFLAMME: All right.

4 MR. AYALA: If not --

5 MR. LAFLAMME: I'll take a look on a
6 break.

7 MR. AYALA: Sure.

8 MR. LAFLAMME: If we can go off the
9 record quickly, Debbie.

10 (Discussion off the record.)

11 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

12 Q. So I may have gotten the retainer
13 agreement. I'll take a look at that, and if I did,
14 that's my fault.

15 And it sounds like there would be
16 invoices, though, that wouldn't have been part of
17 the expert file, correct?

18 A. Right.

19 Q. And that, you -- I assume you just have
20 to put a request in to whomever your admin is and
21 they can pull it and circulate it?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. I would ask that you, after your
24 deposition, you do that, and Rudy and I will get in
25 contact to get that circulated.

1 A. (Witness nods.)

2 Q. Do you know what the total amount or
3 total hours are that you put -- have put into this
4 case thus far?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Have you ever had a prior case involving
7 a hoverboard in which you were the primary expert?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Have you ever had a prior case involving
10 a hoverboard in which you were just working on it in
11 an assistive role?

12 A. A small amount, yes. Yes.

13 Q. Okay. What do you mean by small amount?

14 A. A few hours, assisting with some testing.

15 Q. So it sounds like there was one other
16 file that BEAR had where a hoverboard was involved
17 in one respect or another and you assisted for a
18 couple of hours with some testing.

19 MR. AYALA: Form.

20 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

21 Q. Is that accurate?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. Do you know what type of hoverboard that
24 was?

25 A. No. No. I would be guessing.

1 Q. Was the issue with the hoverboard for the
2 prior case that you had a small assistive role in,
3 did it relate to any fire issues with the
4 hoverboard?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And what was your involvement in that
7 testing?

8 A. I discussed with Rong the type of testing
9 and data together on an exemplar.

10 Q. Okay. So it sounds like with -- is it
11 Rong? Is that what you said?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. With your coworker Rong, he was looking
14 at an exemplar hoverboard?

15 A. Yeah. She had a --

16 Q. Sorry, she.

17 A. She had some exemplars to be tested, yes.

18 Q. And what was your involvement in the
19 actual test process?

20 A. We discussed how to physically connect
21 data acquisition to the hoverboard while it could
22 still be ridden.

23 Q. So was your role with respect to that
24 other case with Rong identifying a way for data
25 extraction from the exemplar?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And was that the -- was that the only
3 role that you played with respect to that other
4 hoverboard case with Rong?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And I assume you weren't named as an
7 expert in that case, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Do you know if any of your opinions have
10 ever been limited or stricken in any manner by a
11 judge?

12 A. There -- I believe so. I'm not aware of
13 the details.

14 Q. Okay. Do you know the name of the case
15 or cases in which that occurred?

16 A. Possibly Ibarra, I-B-A-R-R-A.

17 Q. And what happened with that case?

18 A. I don't really know the details.

19 Q. Was that Jason Ibarra versus Future
20 Motion case?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. And that was the -- a case out of
23 the Southern District of Florida?

24 A. That sounds correct.

25 Q. And as far as what the decision was in

1 that case, do you know to what extent your opinions
2 were limited?

3 A. I don't.

4 Q. How was it that you became aware that
5 your opinions were limited in the Ibarra case?

6 A. I had some conversation with an attorney
7 who -- he suggested that that had occurred, but he
8 didn't have any details for me, so...

9 Q. Have you ever reviewed the case decision
10 related to your testimonies that were limited in
11 that case?

12 A. No.

13 Q. And who were you working for on that
14 case? What law firm?

15 A. I don't recall the names. I think I
16 would remember them if you had them, but...

17 Q. There's a couple names. Abraham
18 Karger -- or, sorry, Aaron Karger?

19 A. That sounds familiar. I think so.

20 Q. Or Jeffrey Weiskopf?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. They both sound familiar?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. So you are aware of that case in
25 which your opinions were limited by the Southern

1 District of Florida; you just don't know in what
2 respect?

3 A. Yeah. So it's kind of hearsay to me,
4 but...

5 Q. How about the Moore v. National Presto
6 Industries case in the Western District of
7 Wisconsin? Are you familiar with that case?

8 A. That sounds like a -- yes, a pressure
9 cooker, I believe.

10 Q. And are you aware that the Court granted
11 summary judgment in -- well, as one of the reasons
12 citing that your opinions were not based on
13 sufficient facts/data, and that you didn't use
14 reliable methods?

15 MR. AYALA: Form.

16 A. I was not aware of that.

17 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

18 Q. Were you advised about the Moore v.
19 National Presto Industries case in the Western
20 District of Wisconsin regarding the Court's review
21 of your opinions in that case?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And you haven't ever read that case?

24 A. No.

25 Q. How about

1 Bettencourt v. SharkNinja Operating, are you aware
2 of that case?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Are you aware that your -- three of your
5 five opinions were excluded in that case?

6 A. That sounds familiar. I don't recall the
7 count.

8 Q. Are you aware that in the Bettencourt
9 case, one of the opinions that was excluded was your
10 FMEA opinions?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you have issued some FMEA-related
13 opinions in this case as well, correct?

14 A. I believe so, yes.

15 Q. You are -- you would agree that you are
16 not an origin and cause expert, correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. And I understand you do not have your CFI
19 or CFEI designation?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Do you know what those designations are?

22 A. Only that they relate to investigating
23 cause and origin of fires.

24 Q. And you are not offering any origin
25 opinions in this case, correct?

1 A. No.

2 Q. And you are relying on Mr. Schulz in this
3 case for his origin opinion as to where the fire may
4 have started, correct?

5 A. Schulz, or any other -- any other
6 investigators. I don't recall the different
7 investigators and roles specifically.

8 Q. Needless to say, you do not have any
9 opinions in this case as to the origin of the fire,
10 correct?

11 A. Right.

12 Q. And you do not intend to testify at trial
13 as to any issues related to the origin of the fire,
14 true?

15 A. Correct.

16 MR. AYALA: Just object to the form
17 of that question.

18 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

19 Q. You did not do an origin investigation,
20 correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. You were not at any of the site
23 inspections, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Do you know what NFPA code applies to

1 origin investigations?

2 A. No.

3 Q. And just to clear up any objections, you
4 are not offering an origin opinion in this case at
5 all, correct?

6 A. Correct.

7 (King Deposition Exhibit 71 marked.)

8 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

9 Q. Sir, I'm going to show you what's been
10 marked as Exhibit 71.

11 And could you describe what 71 is?

12 A. 71 is a document summary.

13 Q. And what does that mean? This was one of
14 the documents within your expert files.

15 A. This is a -- I'll call it a high-level
16 summary of what the documents contain, what
17 information is in the documents that we were
18 provided at the time.

19 Q. So what is the date that this summary is
20 put together?

21 A. I don't know the date that this was
22 started or the last time I edited this.

23 Q. Is this something that you start when you
24 receive an assignment?

25 A. It would be when we received materials,

1 so there's probably a date for when we received --
2 started receiving documents.

3 Q. And does this document summary, does this
4 cover all of the documents that you have received in
5 this case?

6 A. This summary does not have any
7 information on depositions.

8 Q. Okay. What depositions have you reviewed
9 in this case?

10 A. There were -- there was a -- I believe a
11 Walmart representative. I believe there was a
12 Jetson representative. And I briefly reviewed the
13 Sheaman deposition.

14 I have just received some depositions of
15 the family, but I haven't had the -- really had a
16 chance to review those.

17 Q. Okay. When did you obtain the Sheaman
18 dep transcript?

19 A. I believe that was Friday.

20 Q. So after you issued your report?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Have you reviewed the whole Sheaman dep
23 transcript?

24 A. I would say no.

25 Q. It was a pretty lengthy one.

1 A. It was.

2 Q. All right. So you looked at part of it
3 over this weekend?

4 A. Skimmed it, yeah.

5 Q. How much of it did you read?

6 A. Not much.

7 Q. And then did you say the Wadsworth family
8 or the Wadsworth father?

9 A. Family.

10 Q. So Mr. and Mrs., and the four children?

11 A. Yes, I believe that's what's in there.

12 Q. Did you receive that on Friday as well?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And it sounds like you have not reviewed
15 those dep transcripts yet?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Any other dep transcripts that you have
18 received in this case?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Did you review the Walmart and Jetson
21 corporate rep depositions?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. When you do that, do you take notes on
24 the transcript?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Where are those notes located now?

2 A. Those are in the file. They should be in
3 a similar folder as the depositions.

4 Q. Do you know what folder it would be in?
5 I didn't see them in the file, but perhaps I missed
6 them.

7 A. Possibly the -- there should be a
8 materials folder with a date. And inside, I believe
9 it was a second materials folder, there should be
10 the depositions and the summary files for those.

11 Q. So when you take notes on the
12 depositions, is there a similar type summary
13 document created? Or what is your process for that?

14 A. Yeah, for the deposition, I create a
15 separate summary file.

16 Q. Do you actually make markings on the
17 deposition itself or are those just put into a Word
18 document for your notes?

19 A. Just a Word document.

20 Q. And have you started a deposition summary
21 file for Sheaman's deposition?

22 A. Not yet.

23 Q. So for any deposition transcript summary
24 file, I mean your notes, it would just be the
25 Walmart or Jetson corporate rep?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So looking at Exhibit 71, the first
3 document references the complaint. You see that,
4 correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And then there's four bullet points, so
7 to speak, below that. Are those just your summary
8 of some of the significant facts that are included
9 in the complaint?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And then the next category is highlighted
12 Sweetwater County Sheriff's report, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And one of the, then, six bullet points
15 that you have below that is: Hoverboard constantly
16 in use and plugged in several times per day. Outlet
17 where hoverboard charged at location found during
18 investigation.

19 Do you see that?

20 A. Yes. The hoverboard was not charged --
21 or was not plugged in at the time of the fire,
22 correct?

23 MR. AYALA: Form.

24 A. I'm not aware specifically.

25 * * *

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. Okay. You do not know if the hoverboard
3 was plugged in or not at the time of the fire?

4 A. I don't know. No, I don't know for sure
5 either way.

6 Q. Did you review the CT scans in this case?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you are aware that on the CT scans,
9 you can zoom in to the three-pin plug, the
10 receptacle that the charger would plug into on the
11 hoverboard, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. There's no evidence or physical
14 indication that the hoverboard was plugged in based
15 on what you see on the CT scans for that three-pin
16 receptacle, correct?

17 MR. AYALA: Form.

18 A. I wouldn't expect there to be either way.
19 I mean, we received the evidence with no -- with
20 nothing plugged in, so nothing would be there on the
21 CT.

22 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

23 Q. You agree that when the hoverboard was
24 found on-site, it was not plugged in, correct?

25 MR. AYALA: Form.

1 A. I guess I would need to review photos of
2 what people took to check that.

3 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

4 Q. You have not been made aware of any
5 charger that was located in the vicinity of the
6 hoverboard, correct?

7 A. Correct. I haven't seen one.

8 Q. And you haven't seen any remnants of a
9 charger located in the area of the hoverboard,
10 correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And you're not aware of any evidence,
13 testimony or other physical evidence that says that
14 the hoverboard was plugged in at the time of the
15 fire, correct?

16 A. No, I think I would want to review the
17 photos for that specific detail.

18 Q. Okay. But as you sit here today, you
19 cannot point to any testimony, photographs, or other
20 physical evidence that suggests that the hoverboard
21 was plugged in at the time of the fire, correct?

22 MR. AYALA: Form.

23 A. Yeah, as I sit here.

24 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

25 Q. Okay. And you understand that you are

1 being presented for your discovery deposition today
2 to find out all of the information and opinions that
3 you have based on your investigation in this case,
4 correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And based on the totality of your
7 investigation, you are not aware of any testimony,
8 photographs, or other physical evidence that
9 suggests that the hoverboard was plugged in at the
10 time of the fire, correct?

11 A. Not at this time.

12 Q. Going back to Exhibit 71, the third line
13 item is a -- or third category is Public
14 Investigative Report, and then it references
15 Sweetwater County Sheriff's Report.

16 Is that basically just a repeat of the
17 category above?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. All right. And then the next category is
20 Evidence, and one of them is Info From Cristal
21 VanDongen? I'm not sure if I'm saying that
22 correctly, but it's V-A-N, capital D-O-N-G-R-E-N
23 [sic].

24 Do you see that?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Did you speak -- have you spoken with
2 Cristal in this case?

3 A. No.

4 Q. In your report you reference that
5 Cristal was not able to rule out a fire originating
6 outside of the house, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. How did you get that information?

9 A. I believe that is in whatever this note
10 or document contains.

11 Q. So at some point or in one form or
12 another, through your investigation, you learned
13 that Cristal VanDongen was retained as an origin and
14 cause expert by Farmers, who was the property
15 insurer, correct?

16 A. I wasn't aware of her retained role.

17 Q. You're aware that she's an origin and
18 cause expert, correct?

19 A. I was not. I had very little information
20 on her.

21 Q. You were at least told that Cristal, in
22 whatever extent she investigated the fire, could not
23 rule out a fire originating outside the house,
24 correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And it sounds like you never spoke with
2 Cristal to determine why that was, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Have you spoken with any of the
5 individuals that have investigated this fire --
6 that's a poor question. Let me take a step back.

7 Have you spoken with an individual named
8 John Palmer?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Do you know who John Palmer is?

11 A. No. The name sounds familiar.

12 Q. Are you familiar -- does the name sound
13 familiar from -- he's an electrical engineer with
14 Palmer Engineering and Forensics in Salt Lake City.

15 Does that ring a bell?

16 A. No.

17 Q. But regardless, you've never spoken to
18 John Palmer in this case, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Scott Cramer, with EDT, another
21 electrical battery investigator; have you ever
22 spoken with him?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Are you familiar with what Scott Cramer,
25 C-R-A-M-E-R, what his role has been in the

1 investigation in this case?

2 A. No.

3 Q. You are not aware that at one point he
4 was retained by the Wadsworth family to help with
5 the investigation?

6 A. No.

7 Q. How about a Daren Slee, S-L-E-E, with
8 ESI, another electrical battery expert; are you
9 familiar with him?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did you ever -- you never spoke with
12 Mr. Slee, I presume, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And you never spoke with Mr. Cramer,
15 correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And when I say spoke with, I'm -- I
18 should be a little more broad. You've never
19 communicated with Mr. Cramer on this case, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And you've never communicated with
22 Mr. Slee on this case, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And are you aware that Mr. Slee was
25 another electrical battery expert that was

1 previously retained by the Wadsworth family?

2 A. I was not.

3 Q. And you have never communicated with
4 Mr. Palmer, another electrical expert?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. How about a Smokey Dyer, D-Y-E-R? Is
7 that name familiar to you?

8 A. No.

9 Q. And I assume you have never communicated
10 with Smokey Dyer on this case?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And you are not aware that Mr. Dyer is an
13 origin and cause expert that was previously retained
14 by the Wadsworths?

15 A. I was not aware.

16 Q. Are you aware of any other experts that
17 assisted in the investigation into the cause of this
18 fire on behalf of the Wadsworth family other than
19 you and Mr. Schulz?

20 A. No.

21 Q. So you have not been told about the other
22 consultants that have been retained on behalf of the
23 Wadsworths at some point in time during this
24 investigation?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Is the first time you're learning that
2 today?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Have you ever spoken with Mr. Schulz in
5 this case?

6 A. No.

7 Q. It's S-C-H-U-L-Z.

8 Have you worked with Mr. Schulz
9 previously?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Have you ever spoken with any of the
12 local investigators that were involved in the origin
13 and cause investigation?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Meaning Detective Sheaman?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Never communicated with Detective
18 Sheaman?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Have you ever communicated with a Fire
21 Chief Robinson?

22 A. No.

23 Q. How about a Fire Chief Erdmann?

24 A. No.

25 Q. So it sounds like with respect to your

1 investigation in this case, you have not spoken with
2 any of the other individuals that have been involved
3 in this investigation in one form or another?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And you haven't communicated with any of
6 them either?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Going back to Exhibit 71 under the
9 Evidence category, then there's the Nuttall Evidence
10 Log 1 and 2.

11 Do you see that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And then on -- this may just be a typo,
14 but under Evidence Log 1, there's then a 1 in
15 parentheses. Does that mean anything?

16 A. No. That's -- I don't -- I don't know of
17 any meaning to that.

18 Q. I mean, there's not a sub 1 or sub 2 of
19 that evidence log that you are aware of?

20 A. Not that I'm aware.

21 Q. The Nuttall Evidence Log No. 1, that is
22 the -- listed as the fire-damaged hoverboard,
23 correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And that is -- is that the only physical

1 evidence that you have looked at from the fire scene
2 in this case?

3 A. Yes.

4 MR. AYALA: I'm going to object to
5 the form of that question.

6 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

7 Q. Have you looked at any other physical
8 evidence in this case besides the fire-damaged
9 hoverboard that was removed from the Wadsworth
10 residence?

11 A. Not in person.

12 Q. And then, the Nuttall Evidence Log No. 2,
13 that includes a number of other items of evidence,
14 and that is not evidence that you have physically
15 looked at in person, correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Going down to the next category in
18 Exhibit 71, Inspections. And then there's the
19 Public Investigative Report. Is that, again, just
20 the sheriff's report?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And then the other item is just a -- an
23 initial notice letter from Cozen, who represented
24 Farmers at the time, about the first site
25 inspection. Correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And then going down to Photos and Videos,
3 and it's listed Cause and Origin Investigation Pics.

4 Do you see that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Whose cause and origin investigation pics
7 are in your file?

8 A. I would need to review the file to see.

9 Q. Do you know if you have cause and origin
10 investigation pics from more than one individual?

11 A. I believe so, yes.

12 Q. When you say Cause and Origin
13 Investigation Pics, are those photographs -- they
14 all appear to be from the site, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You do not have any photographs from the
17 lab inspection that was conducted in Salt Lake at
18 Palmer's lab, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Going to pages 2 and 3 of Exhibit 71,
21 there's some photographs here, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And one is -- there's at least a
24 reference to Daren Slee scene photos.

25 Do you see that?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Are those -- so do you believe you have
3 Daren Slee's scene photos?

4 A. Yes, that's how it was represented to me.

5 Q. Did you get those directly from Mr. Slee
6 or were those routed to you through counsel?

7 A. Through counsel.

8 Q. And what is the -- what was the purpose
9 that you pulled out these four photos?

10 A. Just to have a visual reference of the
11 evidence as it was on-site.

12 Q. Is there any specific reason that you
13 chose these four?

14 A. Different -- just different perspectives.
15 So the first one is -- looks like it's as
16 found. The second one is as it's been extracted
17 from the house. The third one looks like just
18 another perspective of the same. The fourth one
19 is -- just shows that someone collected the
20 separated cells.

21 Q. So the two separated cells in the fourth
22 photograph, is it your understanding that those were
23 the two cells that were not embedded in the
24 hoverboard remains?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. You have not reviewed any of the body
2 camera footage from this case, have you?

3 A. I have not.

4 Q. Did you even know there was body camera
5 footage from immediate -- immediately after the
6 accident?

7 MR. AYALA: Form.

8 A. I don't know. I didn't recall, unless it
9 was -- maybe it was mentioned in the sheriff report,
10 but...

11 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

12 Q. Regardless, you haven't reviewed any of
13 the body camera footage from the responding police
14 officers that responded the morning of the fire,
15 correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. And you're not aware of any statements
18 that would have been made on that body camera
19 footage by any of the Wadsworth children, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. And you're not aware of any of the
22 statements that would have been made on that body
23 camera footage from Mr. Ryan Pasborg, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. Do you know who Ryan Pasborg is?

1 A. I think he was the first one on scene, if
2 I remember correctly.

3 Q. He was the good samaritan that assisted
4 in getting the Wadsworth family out of the house.

5 You're not aware of any statements he
6 would have said on that body camera footage about
7 where he first saw fire, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Do you know what UL codes are applicable
10 to the design and manufacture of this hoverboard?

11 A. I believe there's the UL -- I want to say
12 2722, if I remember the number correctly.

13 Q. You were close. It's UL 2272.

14 A. 2272. Okay.

15 Q. Any other UL codes that you are aware of
16 that would apply to the design or manufacture of
17 this hoverboard?

18 A. I know there's another one that deals
19 with lithium-ion batteries. I don't recall the
20 number offhand.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Do you know what the -- so you don't know
24 what the UL code is that applies to the specific
25 lithium-ion battery cells, correct?

1 A. Correct. Not offhand.

2 Q. And in this case, it's your opinion that
3 two of the -- two of the ten battery cells that were
4 in this battery pack experienced an internal short
5 circuit with thermal runaway. Correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you've identified those in your
8 report as cells 4 and 10?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So you believe that it is a -- an issue
11 with the lithium-ion battery cells, for cell 4 and
12 10, that caused this fire? At least that's your
13 opinion in this case, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. But you don't know what UL code applies
16 to these specific lithium-ion battery cells?

17 A. I don't recall the number.

18 Q. Do you know if the lithium-ion battery
19 cells in this hoverboard were UL listed?

20 A. I did not check that, so I don't know.

21 (King Deposition Exhibit 72 marked.)

22 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

23 Q. We'll mark as Exhibit 72, this is a copy
24 of a PowerPoint presentation that you went
25 through -- or at least put together, correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. What is the purpose of the PowerPoint
3 presentation?

4 A. These were some notes for myself.

5 Q. And is this a typical process that you do
6 during your investigations?

7 A. Sometimes, yeah.

8 Q. Have you done PowerPoint presentations in
9 other cases that you've worked on?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is the PowerPoint presentation put
12 together before your report is put together?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So going to the second page of
15 Exhibit 72, this shows a photograph of the outside
16 part of the Wadsworth residence, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And is it your understanding that the
19 window that is more or less in the middle of that
20 photograph, that is the boys' bedroom window?

21 A. That is my understanding.

22 Q. Meaning Gunner and Layne's bedroom
23 window?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And here you indicate the father had a

1 plastic HAZMAT-type structure outside for smoking,
2 correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you understand that that smoking shed
5 was just below the boys' window, correct?

6 MR. AYALA: Form.

7 A. That's -- yes, that's my understanding.

8 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

9 Q. And that's your understanding based on
10 your review and invest -- review of photographs and
11 investigation in this case?

12 A. Yes, right.

13 Q. Do you know how big that smoking shed
14 was?

15 A. No, not specifically.

16 Q. Do you know what the smoking shed was
17 made out of?

18 A. No, not -- not specifically as I sit
19 here.

20 Q. You then go on to state that the interior
21 origin is more likely, and then you list three
22 bullet points. Do you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You agree you're not making any origin
25 determinations in this case, correct?

1 A. Correct.

2 Q. One of the items that you list is: Fire
3 damage to exterior wall studs is significantly less.

4 Do you see that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you know if there was any difference
7 in the exterior wall stud construction compared to
8 the interior wall stud construction?

9 A. Not generally.

10 Q. You are aware that the exterior wall
11 construction had insulation in between the studs?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Insulation can act -- can protect those
14 studs during a fire?

15 MR. AYALA: Form.

16 A. It can.

17 MR. LAFLAMME: I'm going to mark --
18 what are we up to, 73?

19 (King Deposition Exhibit 73 marked.)

20 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

21 Q. Show you what's been marked as
22 Exhibit 73.

23 And just so I make sure I understand what
24 you are saying here with this statement, you are
25 stating that, on Exhibit 73, the studs on the

1 right-hand side of the photograph are not burned
2 completely through, correct?

3 A. Right. Compared to the interior --
4 further interior.

5 Q. And you can see that there was bat
6 insulation between those studs, correct?

7 MR. AYALA: Form.

8 A. Yes, I can see that.

9 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

10 Q. You agree that this photograph shows bat
11 insulation in between these studs?

12 A. Yes, it does.

13 MR. AYALA: Form.

14 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

15 Q. And you agree that bat insulation can
16 protect areas of studs where it is installed, in a
17 fire, correct?

18 MR. AYALA: Form.

19 A. It could protect -- yes, it could protect
20 whatever it's covering.

21 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

22 Q. So one reason in which we could see less
23 damage at the exterior wall studs compared to the
24 interior wall studs is because there is bat
25 insulation on the exterior walls that are not

1 present on the interior walls. Correct?

2 MR. AYALA: Let me object to the
3 form. And are you opening the door to him
4 offering opinions as to origin and cause?

5 MR. LAFLAMME: He's already said he's
6 not, but he has this in his PowerPoint.

7 MR. AYALA: Okay. But you're getting
8 a little bit beyond the PowerPoint, so if you
9 wanted to --

10 Object to the form.

11 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

12 Q. Go ahead.

13 A. Can you repeat or can we have the
14 question repeated?

15 Q. Sure.

16 So one of the reasons in which we could
17 see less damage at the exterior wall studs compared
18 to the interior wall studs is because there is bat
19 insulation in between the exterior wall studs,
20 correct?

21 MR. AYALA: Form.

22 A. Yeah, I think that's a possibility.

23 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

24 Q. One of the other bullet points that you
25 have listed in your PowerPoint is the outside

1 temperatures were around 10 degrees Fahrenheit at
2 4:00 a.m. and the window was likely closed.

3 Do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You are aware that the window broke, the
6 boys' bedroom window broke in this fire, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you are aware that the boys woke up
9 when that window broke, correct?

10 MR. AYALA: Form, and
11 mischaracterizes testimony.

12 A. I don't know -- I guess I don't know
13 specifically when the boys woke up in the course of
14 this event.

15 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. But...

18 Q. If a fire had started outside by this
19 window, it could affect the window to the extent
20 that it could break it, correct?

21 MR. AYALA: Object to the form.

22 A. Yes.

23 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

24 Q. And if that window is broken, then an
25 outside fire would have a path into the boys'

1 bedroom, correct?

2 MR. AYALA: Form.

3 A. It would, yes.

4 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

5 Q. And you understand that the boys' bed was
6 just on the other side of this bedroom window?

7 A. Yes, I believe so.

8 Q. And you'd agree that a bed is a pretty
9 significant fuel load for a fire?

10 A. Yes, it could be.

11 Q. So if a fire had started outside of this
12 bedroom window and broken that window, it would then
13 have a significant fuel load in the form of the bed
14 on the other side of that window, correct?

15 MR. AYALA: Form.

16 A. Yes. Hypothetically, yes.

17 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

18 Q. The third bullet point that you have is
19 that the fire would have to rise along the outside
20 wall, enter the eaves and burn down with
21 preferential damage to the interior.

22 Do you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Are you getting these statements from any
25 of the origin and cause investigators or are these

1 three bullet points your own language?

2 A. These are my own.

3 Q. You did not do any fire spread analysis
4 in this case, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And you are not an expert on fire spread,
7 true?

8 A. That's true.

9 Q. You're not an expert on fire modeling,
10 correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. And you did not do any fire modeling in
13 this case, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And you'd agree that another potential
16 path for this fire to spread to the interior of the
17 house would be through that bedroom window if that
18 window was broken?

19 MR. AYALA: Object to the form.

20 A. If it was open and there was a fire
21 outside, it could spread in through an open window.

22 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

23 Q. And another way to open a window is
24 through breaking the window, correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 MR. AYALA: Form.

2 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

3 Q. If you could go to page 3 of this
4 PowerPoint.

5 And this shows an individual holding a --
6 it looks like a tape measure, on the left-hand side
7 across the studs between the boys' bedroom window
8 and the hallway, correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And in the right-side photograph, there's
11 a red circle added. Was that added by you?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And I believe what you are trying to
14 state is that -- or show with the red circle is that
15 that was the remnants of the hoverboard?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. So looking at the left-side picture, do
18 you believe -- is it your position that that shows
19 the V pattern?

20 MR. AYALA: Form.

21 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

22 Q. Or do you not have an opinion as to
23 whether that's a V pattern or not?

24 A. In the context of the cause and origin
25 investigation, I don't have an opinion if that is a

1 V pattern.

2 Q. So as far as looking at the left picture
3 on page 3, you do not have an opinion one way or the
4 other whether that fire pattern would qualify as a V
5 pattern, correct?

6 A. Not specifically.

7 Q. Well, specifically or not, you don't have
8 an opinion as to whether that fire pattern on the
9 wall studs between the hallway and the bedroom on
10 the left side photo is a V pattern, true?

11 A. True.

12 MR. AYALA: Form.

13 A. It looks like a V, but if -- whether or
14 not that qualifies as a V pattern per the
15 investigative standards...

16 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

17 Q. What is the investigative standard that
18 defines what a V pattern is?

19 A. I don't know specifically. I assume
20 there's an NFPA standard to address that.

21 Q. Okay. But you don't know what that NFPA
22 standard is, correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. But looking at the photograph on the
25 right-hand side, you have the red circle where the

1 hoverboard is.

2 Do you see that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And you can see that the studs to the
5 left and right of that hoverboard are not fully
6 consumed.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That's correct, right?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Meaning you can see the studs on both
11 sides of this hoverboard on the right side and the
12 left side, correct?

13 A. Correct. And it looks like one is
14 missing where the hoverboard is.

15 Q. Okay. Are you aware of what an inverted
16 cone pattern is?

17 A. No.

18 Q. You don't know what an inverted cone
19 pattern is with respect to fire pattern analysis,
20 correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. You do not see a V pattern coming off the
23 hoverboard on the right photo, correct?

24 MR. AYALA: Form.

25 A. Correct.

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. If you could go to page 4. And is this
3 just a summary of what was from the sheriff's
4 report?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. As to whether the statements in the
7 sheriff's report are accurate or not, are you taking
8 a position one way or the other in that regard?

9 A. I am assuming that they were accurate.

10 Q. You weren't involved in the site
11 inspection at all, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. So any analysis of the site itself, you
14 are not able to state whether the sheriff's
15 department report is accurate or not, correct?

16 A. Not personally, no. Correct.

17 Q. If you could go to page 5. This lists
18 Fire Investigation Insurance Notes.

19 What does insurance notes mean?

20 A. I think that refers to my impression of
21 roughly where these notes came from was from an
22 insurance company or someone acting on behalf of an
23 insurance company.

24 Q. Okay. Did you have notes in your file
25 from Farmers?

1 A. Not -- I mean, I think Cristal is
2 associated with Farmers, and I have a note relating
3 to her.

4 Q. Is that a note that Cristal wrote?

5 A. I don't know who authored anything from
6 Farmers.

7 Q. How was it that you received the note
8 about Cristal not being able to rule out the -- a
9 fire from outside the bedroom window?

10 A. That was part of the documentation
11 provided by counsel.

12 Q. If you could go to page 6.

13 And is this taken at your lab?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So here we have, on the left-hand side,
16 the two loose cells, and then on the right-hand side
17 is the remnants of the hoverboard and the remainder
18 of the lithium-ion battery cells, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Purpose of putting these photographs in
21 just for general overview?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Any other purpose?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Then going to page 7 of your PowerPoint,

1 here it shows the battery cell from an exemplar
2 Plasma unit, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And how is it that you obtained the
5 exemplar Plasma unit?

6 A. I purchased.

7 Q. From where?

8 A. eBay.

9 Q. When did you purchase the exemplar
10 Plasma?

11 A. Should be a few months ago. I don't
12 remember exactly.

13 Q. Had you purchased the exemplar Plasma
14 before the lab inspection that we were at at your
15 place in February?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Did you do anything to determine who the
18 manufacturer was of the battery cell for the Plasma
19 unit?

20 A. No. My understanding is JDDL is the name
21 of a manufacturer, but beyond that...

22 Q. Do you know which manufacturer name that
23 is?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Have you seen any of the document

1 productions that Jetson has made in this case?

2 A. I don't believe so.

3 Q. You haven't seen any of the UL test
4 reports or certification records in this case?

5 A. I have not.

6 Q. We'll mark this as 74.

7 (King Deposition Exhibit 74 marked.)

8 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

9 Q. Handing you what's been marked as
10 Exhibit 74, which is a Bates document that starts
11 with JETSON 311.

12 Do you see that in the lower right-hand
13 corner?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And you have not seen this before,
16 correct?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. If you go to the second page of this
19 document, there's a description of this battery.
20 And you can see the model number is INR, all
21 capitalized, 18650P.

22 Do you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And that's the same model number on this
25 battery cell, correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And then you can also see that it's
3 9.0 -- I assume that's watt-hours? Is that --

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Capital W, lowercase h.

6 And that's also what is marked on this
7 battery cell, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. So with respect to this battery cell, you
10 agree with me that the battery cell is the cell that
11 is covered in this UL report?

12 MR. AYALA: Form.

13 A. Yes, it looks like the exemplar matches
14 the UL report.

15 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

16 Q. And on the first page of Exhibit 74, it
17 lists the manufacturer.

18 And I'm not going to try to say it,
19 but...

20 A. I see it.

21 Q. Okay. Did you do -- you haven't done
22 anything to verify whether this battery cell that
23 was used in the Plasma was UL certified, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. In looking at the document before you,

1 Exhibit 74, you agree with me that this is a UL
2 certification report for this model battery cell?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. So with respect to the battery cell that
5 was utilized in the Plasma model hoverboards, you
6 agree that they were UL-certified battery cells,
7 correct?

8 MR. AYALA: Form.

9 A. It certainly appears they were, based on
10 this report.

11 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

12 Q. Did you ever ask to see Jetson's document
13 production in this case?

14 A. I don't recall if I did or didn't.
15 Normally I would, yeah.

16 Q. The UL test records and certifications is
17 something that would directly relate to your
18 analysis in this case, correct?

19 A. Somewhat. They could help if we wanted
20 to dig into why these specific cells might have an
21 internal short.

22 Q. Do you have an understanding as to what
23 testing was required of these cells in order to
24 obtain the UL certification?

25 A. Not in -- not really, as I sit here.

1 Q. Do you know if a short-circuit test was
2 done as part of the UL certification and test
3 process?

4 A. I believe so, yes.

5 Q. And now in looking at this document, you
6 are aware that UL 2580 is the standard that applies
7 to battery cells, lithium-ion battery cells,
8 correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. You did not know that prior to looking at
11 this document, correct?

12 A. I did not recall the document number, the
13 UL number.

14 Q. Did you consult with UL 2580 at all in
15 your analysis in this case?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And you don't reference UL 2580 at all in
18 your report, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Are you aware of a recall that Jetson had
21 on a different hoverboard model?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. What is your awareness of that?

24 A. I believe it was the Rogue model, model
25 name. I -- if I recall correctly, it was related to

1 possible -- a possible fire hazard.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. But that's the extent of my recollection.

4 Q. So it sounds like your knowledge of the
5 recall on the Rogue model is more general as opposed
6 to any in-depth analysis that you've done on that
7 issue.

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Do you even know what type of battery
10 cells the Rogue model had compared to the Plasma?

11 A. No.

12 Q. You are aware from reviewing Mr. Husain's
13 deposition testimony from Jetson that the battery
14 cells were from a different manufacturer?

15 A. That sounds familiar, him saying so.

16 Q. So the battery manufacturer that we have
17 for the Plasma model is --

18 MR. LAFLAMME: I'm just going to let
19 you type that.

20 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

21 Q. -- Jiangxi Jiuding Power.

22 MR. LAFLAMME: And that's probably
23 good enough.

24 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

25 Q. I'm going to try to say this

1 phonetically. Is -- actually, I'm not even going to
2 try to say it.

3 The battery manufacturer is listed on the
4 first page of Exhibit 74, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And you don't know whether that's the
7 same battery manufacturer for the lithium-ion
8 battery cell that was involved in the Rogue model,
9 correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And you did not do anything to assess
12 that issue?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. All right. Going to page 8.

15 A. Of which?

16 Q. Oh, I'm sorry. Of your PowerPoint, which
17 is Exhibit 72. All right.

18 Looking at page 8 of Exhibit 72, this is
19 what appears to be just a comparison from the
20 exemplar compared to the subject unit, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And then if we go to page 9 of your
23 PowerPoint, this is when you remove the exemplar
24 battery pack, correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And when all the cells are put together,
2 that's generally referred to as a battery pack,
3 correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And this battery pack has ten cells?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. On the bottom-left photographs on page 9,
8 it looks like there's little Post-Its there. Is
9 that just marking the positive and negative sides of
10 the battery?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So I was able to make out that the orange
13 ones are P, for positive, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Are the yellow ones, is that an N?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. I wasn't able to tell what that
18 letter was.

19 And if we look at page 10 of the
20 PowerPoint, this is a CT scan of the battery pack
21 side of the hoverboard, and you can see that there
22 is eight of the ten cells that are shown in there,
23 correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You call it a vertical connection between

1 3 and 8 -- or cells number 3 and 8.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What's the purpose of calling out the
4 vertical connection?

5 A. It's one of the similar features that can
6 be seen in the exemplar battery pack.

7 So if you look in the bottom left, there
8 are what I call vertical connections, and there's
9 diagonal connections, and a horizontal connection on
10 the other side. So it's just a feature.

11 Q. And these connections are what put these
12 batteries into parallel and series, correct?

13 A. I believe it's all series, but yes.

14 Q. So for the Plasma battery pack, you
15 believe that battery pack is put together all in
16 series?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And nothing in parallel?

19 A. That's my recollection, yes.

20 Q. And back to page 10 of the PowerPoint.

21 You have an arrow, kind of by the right side of cell
22 number 10 that says PCB underside?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So that's the primary circuit board?

25 A. Yes. Yeah, printed circuit board.

1 Q. Oh, sorry, printed circuit board.

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. So the printed circuit board for the
4 hoverboard, if we're looking at the hoverboard's
5 construction, would have been just beneath the
6 battery pack?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And if we go to page 11 of your
9 PowerPoint, and here you have just a top-down
10 photograph, but you do mark some of the batteries
11 that are visible at that location and compared to
12 how you numbered them.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And on page 12, which is the last page of
15 your PowerPoint, Exhibit 72, this is somewhat of a
16 recap of what your expert report says, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So here, 10 cells total, all cells
19 accounted for, and then you, at the third primary
20 bullet point, you reference the most extensive
21 damage is to cells 4 and 10, which have blown out.

22 Do you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And cells 4 and 10 would have blown out,
25 to use your term, on the positive cap side?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. The negative side does not have a cap,
3 correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. And then you have: Internal materials
6 are mostly ejected, meaning they would have left the
7 cell itself, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And they would have left the cell through
10 the end cap?

11 A. Yes. Or along with the end cap.

12 Q. And then you have that that is consistent
13 with an internal short, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And when you say internal short, you mean
16 a short circuit?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And in order to get a short circuit, you
19 have to have -- does that require communication with
20 the positive and negative side, meaning the anode
21 and cathode?

22 A. Yes. Yep.

23 Q. And then, so it's your opinion that
24 cells 4 and 10, they both had an internal short
25 circuit, correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And so ultimately, you attribute the
3 cause of this fire to the internal short circuit
4 with both cells 4 and 10?

5 A. I think that it's more likely.

6 Q. So you think it's more likely than not
7 that the internal short circuit that you have
8 identified in cells 4 and 10, that both of those
9 cells were the cause of the fire?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What temperature does a lithium-ion
12 battery cell in 18650 reach when it fails through
13 its end cap?

14 A. It can reach hundreds of degrees
15 centigrade, or Celsius.

16 Q. What is that in Fahrenheit?

17 A. More hundreds.

18 Q. All right. Now I'm going to have to get
19 a calculator because I speak in Fahrenheit language.

20 When you say hundreds of degrees of
21 Celsius, what are you talking about?

22 A. Well, when the cell is experiencing a
23 thermal runaway, and it's to the degree that it's
24 going -- or does explode, typically that's -- that's
25 when it's at its highest temperature.

1 Q. Okay. And what is its highest
2 temperature?

3 A. That's in hundreds of degrees. I don't
4 have a specific --

5 Q. Eight hundreds of Celsius?

6 MR. AYALA: Form.

7 A. It could be. Sounds possible. Maybe
8 600.

9 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

10 Q. Do you have any information as to what
11 temperature a lithium-ion battery cell, what the
12 range is within the internal portion of the cell
13 when it fails through its end cap?

14 A. For the internal components, I believe
15 they need to exceed 170 Celsius to get into that
16 last stage of the thermal runaway. But once that
17 combustion begins, I don't know what the -- what
18 temperature that might continue to reach.

19 Q. Have you done any research to determine
20 what the internal temperature of a lithium-ion
21 battery cell would reach in order to fail through
22 the end cap?

23 A. I have previously read some studies on
24 that.

25 Q. You --

1 A. But the -- but specifically measuring the
2 internal temperature when it blows off the end cap,
3 I'm not aware.

4 Q. You're not aware that 1900 degrees
5 Fahrenheit is about when the -- where the internal
6 temperatures of a lithium-ion battery cell will
7 reach when it fails through its end cap?

8 MR. AYALA: Form.

9 A. I wasn't aware of that specific
10 temperature, no.

11 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

12 Q. Does that temperature sound incorrect to
13 you?

14 MR. AYALA: Form.

15 A. It sounds plausible.

16 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

17 Q. So you agree, based on your experience
18 and knowledge and expertise that you are being
19 presented for, that 1900 degrees Fahrenheit is a
20 plausible temperature in which the lithium-ion
21 battery cells would reach when they fail through
22 their end cap, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And when they fail through the end cap,
25 the contents of the cell is then pushed out of the

1 top, or rather it pushes the end cap off and then it
2 spills out the top, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. When the short circuit first occurs in
5 cells 4 and 10, the hoverboard would still be
6 intact, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Meaning they're still within the plastic
9 casing of the hoverboard itself, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So when they first spill their contents,
12 they would be spilling their contents within the
13 confined space of the hoverboard shell, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So with respect to your believed mode of
16 failure, you have cells 4 and 10 with a short
17 circuit. They both -- both of their end caps fail
18 and then their contents expel, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 MR. AYALA: Eugene, whenever you find
21 the time, we've been going two hours now. I
22 don't want to break up if you're in a mode, so
23 just --

24 MR. LAFLAMME: Once I get off this
25 topic, I'll --

1 Thanks.

2 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

3 Q. With respect to your failure mode, you
4 have the battery pack that is located within the
5 plastic shell, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And then you have cells 4 and 10, which
8 are the two that you believe short-circuited and
9 failed. Correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So they both spilled their contents
12 within the confines of the hoverboard shell,
13 correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And then you believe that that is, then,
16 what started the fire?

17 A. Yes, I think that's likely.

18 Q. So you believe that the spilled contents
19 of cells 4 and 10 would have then ignited other
20 stuff within the hoverboard shell? Am I following
21 correct?

22 A. Yes. And with the end cap explosion, it
23 typically -- there's typically flame associated with
24 the cell itself.

25 Q. So when you have the -- when you have the

1 short circuit at cells 4 and 10, so then you
2 ultimately get to the point where there's the
3 failure that the cap comes off with the contents of
4 the cell, and at the same time, there's flame.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And so that is -- that's all
7 affecting the internal portions of the hoverboard,
8 which then you believe would be the next item to
9 catch on fire?

10 A. That would be the next -- yeah, just in
11 space, that's the next item is the hoverboard.

12 Q. Okay. So basically, whatever
13 combustibles within the hoverboard would be adjacent
14 to where the end caps failed for 4 and 10, would in
15 essence be the next items ignited?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did cells 4 and 10 -- were they oriented
18 so that their positive side was in the same
19 direction or in different directions?

20 A. I don't recall.

21 Q. Would looking at -- you have a CT on
22 page 10 of your PowerPoint.

23 I don't know if that tells you, because
24 the end of 4 is a little hidden.

25 A. So it looks like they would be oriented

1 opposite.

2 Q. Okay. So 10 -- 10 is, at least on
3 page 10 of your PowerPoint exhibit, is oriented so
4 that the end cap is towards the wheel, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And then 4 would be oriented so that that
7 end cap is towards the middle of the hoverboard?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. And in this case, 4 looks like it's been
11 folded out of the cells.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. Of the pack.

14 So, you know, as it is, the positive is
15 facing the wheel also, but if it were folded back
16 into its original position, it would be towards the
17 middle.

18 Q. Gotcha. Okay.

19 A. Okay.

20 Q. So within the battery pack, when they
21 failed, they would have been facing opposite sides
22 for the end cap, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR. LAFLAMME: We can take a break
25 now.

1 (Recess taken, 11:31 a.m. to
2 11:38 a.m. PDT)

3 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

4 Q. Mr. King, we were talking about -- or
5 have gone through Exhibit 72 a bit, which is in
6 front of you.

7 On the first page is -- there's just a
8 designation of 23-6098. I assume that's your
9 internal file number?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. 2023 --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- would indicate the year in which you
14 were hired?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And then obviously the file number is
17 however you designate the file number, the 6098?

18 A. Yes.

19 (King Deposition Exhibit 75 marked.)

20 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

21 Q. Sir, Exhibit 75 was another part of your
22 expert file. And this just appears to be a
23 highlighted version of the Sweetwater County
24 Sheriff's Department where you, it looks like, just
25 highlighted or circled each time one of the names

1 was mentioned.

2 Is that what you did here?

3 A. No. This was highlighted and annotated
4 as I received it.

5 Q. So the highlightings and circles of the
6 individuals throughout this report, that was how you
7 received it from counsel?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And this wasn't received directly from
10 the sheriff's department, right? It was through
11 counsel?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So as far as the specific reasons or
14 importance of the various names that are highlighted
15 or circled, you don't know?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Did you do any highlighting or circling
18 or notes independent of what we see here on the
19 Sweetwater County Sheriff's report related to this
20 report?

21 A. No, not other than what was in the
22 summary document we already looked at.

23 Q. That makes that one easy.

24 Before the break we were talking about
25 how you believe cells 4 and 10 both had this short

1 circuit, and their end caps would have come off
2 within the hoverboard, which then ignited other
3 combustibles within the hoverboard. Correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And when there's a short circuit within a
6 battery cell, you would expect the tab within the
7 cell to have some damage to it, correct?

8 MR. AYALA: Form.

9 A. Yes.

10 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

11 Q. And what is the -- do you know what the
12 tab is within an 18650 lithium-ion battery cell?

13 A. Well, there's a positive and a negative
14 tab that connects the anode catheter to the exterior
15 of the cell.

16 Q. Let me see if I can find a picture of
17 those.

18 (King Deposition Exhibit 76 marked.)

19 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

20 Q. Sir, I have handed you what's been marked
21 as Exhibit 76, which is from the CT scans that were
22 done on this hoverboard. And this is from -- this
23 is side B of cell 10.

24 And inside you can see the tab, correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And do you know what -- just so we're --
2 make sure we're communicating on the record, the tab
3 is what we see moving from the bottom, the negative
4 side, up to the -- toward the positive side,
5 correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And that is inside the cell?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. What is the tab made of?

10 A. I mean, typically -- let's see. They're
11 made of a nickel alloy, but I did not specifically
12 check this tab.

13 Q. Do you know what the melting temperature
14 is generally of the metal that is used for a tab
15 internal to a lithium-ion battery cell?

16 A. No, not offhand.

17 Q. And looking at the tab in Exhibit 76,
18 this tab is still intact, correct?

19 A. Yes, it appears to be.

20 Q. And had there been a short circuit in
21 this cell, you'd expect to see more damage to this
22 tab, wouldn't you?

23 MR. AYALA: Form.

24 A. Possibly.

25 * * *

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. And with respect to Exhibit 76, that
3 doesn't show really any damage to this tab, correct?

4 MR. AYALA: Form.

5 A. That's correct. Just a little
6 deformation.

7 (King Deposition Exhibit 77 marked.)

8 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

9 Q. In looking at Exhibit 77, which is from
10 the CT scan in a cross section of cell 4, here we
11 still see the tab intact, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And there's no melting on this tab?

14 A. Not that's apparent.

15 Q. And there was no melting on the tab in
16 Exhibit 76 either, correct?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And as with cell 10 in Exhibit 76, you
19 would expect to see some damage or melting to this
20 tab had there been an internal short circuit,
21 correct?

22 A. Possibly.

23 MR. AYALA: Form.

24 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

25 Q. And in order to get an internal short

1 circuit, we talked about how the anode and cathode
2 need to communicate, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And the -- in between the anode and
5 cathode within an 18650 cell is a separator,
6 correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And what is the separator made out of?

9 A. It's typically a polymer, a porous
10 polymer.

11 Q. So in order for the short circuit to
12 occur in cells 4 and 10, you need to have a failure
13 of the separator, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. If the separator doesn't fail, then there
16 is no way for a short circuit to occur, correct?

17 A. That's right.

18 Q. And the separator is -- it's independent
19 to each cell, correct?

20 A. Each cell has its own separator.

21 Q. Right. So -- I guess what I'm getting at
22 is, so each of the ten cells has its own separator
23 between the anode and cathode, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So in order to get a short at cells 4 and

1 10, both of those separators, so the separator in
2 cell 4 and the separator in cell 10 would need to
3 fail in order to get the communication from the
4 anode and cathode.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And both of those separators would have
7 to fail at the same time in order to get a short in
8 cells 4 and 10, correct?

9 A. I don't see a timing requirement for
10 those to be synchronized.

11 Q. Well, in order to get -- because we just
12 talked about how you have cells 4 and 10, those are
13 the two cells that had a short circuit, correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And both of those cells, when they had
16 their short circuit, you talked about how your --
17 the progression of the failure was that the end caps
18 would have come off on cells 4 and 10, then you'd
19 get the internal contents and some flame on the
20 internal portions of the hoverboard, which would
21 then ignite combustibles by cells 4 and 10, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And cells 4 and 10 would have failed at
24 the same time, correct?

25 MR. AYALA: Form.

1 A. Approximately, yeah.

2 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

3 Q. So in order to get the cells 4 and 10 to
4 short circuit, both of their separators would have
5 had to fail at approximately the same time, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Have you ever had any other hoverboard
8 cases where you believe there was a short circuit in
9 two different cells at approximately the same time?

10 A. I have not personally had any other
11 hoverboard cases.

12 Q. Okay. How about any other lithium-ion
13 battery cases, any others that you can identify
14 where you believe the -- two of -- at least two of
15 the battery cells within the battery pack failed at
16 approximately the same time due to a short circuit?

17 A. Not -- nothing comes to mind.

18 Q. Okay. If you could pull out your
19 PowerPoint again, and go to the page of the CT scan.

20 Were you able to -- was there any arcing
21 that was found on any wires within the hoverboard?

22 A. Not that I observed.

23 Q. Was there any arcing -- or are you aware
24 of any arcing that was found on any wires related to
25 the Wadsworth house at the site?

1 A. I thought someone mentioned a possible
2 arc outside. I'm not certain that --

3 Q. So you are aware that there has at least
4 been some discussions about some arcing that may
5 have been found on some wires outside of the
6 residence?

7 A. Yes, at least some discussion of that
8 possibility.

9 Q. Do you know where that arcing was
10 located?

11 A. Somewhere related to the shed, the
12 smoking shed.

13 Q. So you are aware at least of at least
14 some discussion about some arcing that was
15 identified at the smoking shed outside of the
16 residence, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Are you aware of any arcing that was
19 identified inside the residence, the internal house
20 wiring?

21 A. No, I'm not.

22 Q. And this hoverboard was located just in
23 front of an electrical outlet, correct?

24 A. I believe so, yes.

25 Q. And you're not aware of any arcing that

1 was located on that electrical outlet or the
2 associated wires, correct?

3 A. I'm not aware of any.

4 Q. And arcing within a fire occurs when an
5 electrical line is hit by flames or high heat and it
6 is energized, correct?

7 A. Yeah. If the insulation between the
8 electrified lines goes away and they contact each
9 other, then you can get an arc.

10 Q. And one of the tenets -- or one of the
11 necessities in order to have an arc to occur on an
12 electrical wire is that it needs to be energized,
13 correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you know where the electrical service
16 came into the house at the Wadsworth residence?

17 A. No.

18 Q. And do you know where the electrical
19 service came into the house in relation to where the
20 smoking shed was located?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Have you seen any photographs of the
23 arcing that was identified at the smoking shed?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Looking at the CT scan that you have in

1 your PowerPoint which has been marked as Exhibit 72,
2 so if we look at cell 10, and we can see that that
3 end cap is missing, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And then there's some wiring that is
6 coming off of the tire that passes through that
7 area.

8 Do you see that?

9 A. I do. It's this, yeah?

10 Q. Correct.

11 It's going to be tough to describe, but
12 there's some wiring that comes off a barrel, so to
13 speak, that is next to the battery pack, correct?

14 A. Yeah. It's -- and this is a 2D
15 rendering, but in the image, yes.

16 Q. Okay.

17 All right. And then could you go to
18 page 8 of your PowerPoint, which is the comparison
19 between the exemplar and the subject hoverboard.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Actually, what may be -- why don't we go
22 off the record quickly.

23 (Discussion off the record.)

24 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

25 Q. Mr. King, we went off the record quickly

1 just because the Exhibit 72 that you had did not
2 have page numbers on it, so we added page numbers to
3 it. And it is starting on page 1 with the cover
4 sheet, and the last page should be page 12.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Accurate?

7 A. Accurate.

8 Q. Okay. If you could go to page 8 of
9 Exhibit 72.

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. And this is what shows the comparison of
12 the exemplar compared to the subject hoverboard.
13 Correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So if we are looking at -- sorry if
16 I'm --

17 A. That's all right.

18 Q. -- at which cell is cell 10, is that the
19 top one that is closest to us or do you have them
20 actually labelled there?

21 A. They are labeled. So it's going to be
22 the bottom of the closest.

23 Q. Okay. So cell 10 would be directly
24 beneath cell 1.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And then cell 4, we can see where that is
2 located, correct?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And if you look at the exemplar, you can
5 see the wires that are colored that we were seeing
6 in the CT scan, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. All right. And there was no arcing on
9 any of these wires, correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And the wires still had their insulation
12 on them with their -- still had their colored
13 insulation on them, didn't they?

14 A. In at least some section, yes.

15 Q. And do you know what temperature it takes
16 to melt the plastic insulation off of wiring?

17 A. Approximately 90C. Depends on the
18 insulation.

19 Q. It's certainly less than the temperature
20 that the internal cell contents would come out at or
21 the fire that would result from the end cap failure,
22 correct?

23 A. It's less than fire temperatures, yes.

24 Q. Okay. And here, with this fire, we have
25 still the colored insulation on some of the

1 electrical wires that are directly next to where you
2 believe cell 10 failed through its end cap, correct?

3 A. So when I look at this -- so on -- it
4 looks like on the same page of this subject you can
5 just see a small section of colored wires in the
6 subject. To me, that looks like that section would
7 be closer to cells 8 -- closer to cell 8, especially
8 when it's in its -- in the assembled condition.

9 As far as the wiring next to cell 10,
10 it's not clear to me that -- I mean, we couldn't
11 visually see that area, at least I don't recall
12 being able to see that section of wiring.

13 Q. But you agree that there was no arcing in
14 that location, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Yeah. And then, those wires, I -- I
17 wouldn't -- I wouldn't expect those to be energized,
18 because those -- it looks like those are going
19 through the axle -- it's like a hollow axle conduit
20 going to the motor. So I wouldn't expect those to
21 be energized unless the motor was running.

22 Q. But there was no arcing anywhere within
23 this hoverboard, correct, on any of the wires?

24 A. I believe that's correct, yeah.

25 Q. How far away would cell -- is cell 8 from

1 cell 10, distance-wise?

2 A. It's -- well, it's one cell in between,
3 so approximately 20 millimeters.

4 Q. Okay. And in 18 -- you would agree,
5 these are 18650 lithium-ion battery cells, right?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And the 18 is the designation for the
8 diameter?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. So an 18650 cell is 18 millimeters wide.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So cell 10's end cap would have failed,
13 under your theory, about 20 millimeters away from
14 where we still have colored insulation on wiring,
15 correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. How far is 20-milliliter --
18 20 millimeters in inches?

19 A. It's almost an inch.

20 Q. Would .78 inches sound accurate?

21 A. That sounds right.

22 Q. So less than an inch away from where you
23 believe one of the end caps failed within the
24 internal portions of the hoverboard, you still have
25 colored wired insulation present, correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And the circuit board was -- is directly
3 beneath the battery pack, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And what is the -- what's a circuit board
6 constructed of?

7 A. It's a mix of polymer and metal. Metal
8 traces, you know, the components that get soldered
9 on.

10 Q. So the components could be capacitors,
11 MOSFETS, things of that nature?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And the components are connected to the
14 circuit board with solder, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Do you know what temperature solder melts
17 at?

18 A. Not offhand.

19 Q. It's a pretty low temperature, correct?

20 A. Yes, it is.

21 Q. Does about 300 degrees sound familiar for
22 what solder would melt at?

23 MR. AYALA: Form.

24 A. That's -- that sounds plausible.

25 Reasonable.

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. Okay. Did any of the solder melt off of
3 the circuit board in this case?

4 A. I would need to look at that again. I
5 can't tell you.

6 Q. When determining whether the fire
7 originated as a result of a short circuit at cells 4
8 and 10, wouldn't it be important to assess the
9 condition of the circuit board that's immediately
10 beneath the battery pack?

11 MR. AYALA: Form.

12 A. It's possible. It would be an
13 interesting data point.

14 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

15 Q. Meaning because if you had 18650 cell
16 contents spilling out directly above the circuit
17 board along with flame above the circuit board, you
18 would expect the circuit board to be impacted by
19 that, correct?

20 MR. AYALA: Form.

21 A. To some degree. You know, the direction
22 where these contents and the flame from the cell
23 specifically go, that would -- that would vary what
24 the damage is on the circuit board.

25 * * *

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. It sounds like you did not do an analysis
3 of the circuit board for your opinion in this case,
4 correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 (King Deposition Exhibit 78 marked.)

7 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

8 Q. I'll hand you what's been marked as
9 Exhibit 78, which is from the CT scan.

10 And this shows the PCB, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And on the PCB, you can still see that
13 all of the electrical components are intact on the
14 PCB, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And the -- in order for the electrical
17 components to still be present, they would -- the
18 solder would need to stay in place, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. So you agree that there is not any damage
21 to the PCB that impacted the presence of soldering
22 on it, correct?

23 MR. AYALA: Form.

24 A. That's -- that appears to be true.

25 * * *

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. Okay. That's what the CT scan shows,
3 correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. So the CT scan shows that the solder on
6 the PCB, along with the electrical components --

7 Well, let me take a step back.

8 So the CT scan shows that the solder on
9 the PCB is still in place, correct?

10 A. Yes, at least for what's in this image.

11 Q. And the electrical components,
12 capacitors, MOSFETS, those are still in place on the
13 PCB as well.

14 A. They look like they're still where
15 they're supposed to be.

16 Q. And you did not find any loose
17 capacitors, MOSFETS, or other types of electrical
18 components from the PCB within the evidence that you
19 looked at for the hoverboard, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Meaning there wasn't anything loose from
22 the PCB that was collected within the hoverboard
23 evidence, correct?

24 MR. AYALA: Object to form.

25 A. Not that I found.

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. And MOSFETS are M-O-S-F-E-T-S. Is that
3 right, Mr. King? Is it F-E-T-S?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And I think it's all capitalized too.
6 It's an acronym for something.

7 A. Mm-hmm.

8 Q. And the underside of this hoverboard was
9 still mostly intact, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And the carpeting beneath the hoverboard
12 was still intact?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And you could still see the color, the
15 iridescent color of the hoverboard on the underside
16 it of, correct?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you could see the iridescent color on
19 the underside of both sides of the hoverboard,
20 correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Meaning the side also directly beneath
23 the battery pack that you believe had a failure in
24 it?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And the wheels on the underside still had
2 their treads, correct?

3 A. I don't recall specifically.

4 Q. Okay. Just a second here.

5 I'm going to have to do this one
6 electronically, and then I think what we can do is I
7 can send it to you and we can mark it, and I'll flip
8 this around for you so you can see it.

9 (King Deposition Exhibit 79 marked.)

10 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

11 Q. I think we have it so you and I are
12 looking at the same thing now.

13 Do you see my cursor moving?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So we are -- there are three photographs
16 here in this Word document, two on the first page,
17 one on the second page, which we will mark as
18 Exhibit 79.

19 And here you can see the underside of the
20 hoverboard, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And as we discussed, it still has the
23 iridescent coloring to it, correct?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What side of the hoverboard is the

1 battery side?

2 A. I don't recall from this orientation.

3 Q. Does me going down to any of the other
4 photos help, or no?

5 A. It does not help my recollection.

6 Q. Okay. All right. So at least on both
7 sides, both the battery side and the nonbattery
8 side, we still have some iridescent coloring, and
9 the bottom is pretty well intact. True?

10 A. Yeah.

11 MR. AYALA: Form.

12 A. From -- I mean, the ends. The middle is
13 destroyed, but the ends, you can still see the
14 green.

15 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

16 Q. And then you can see the brown coloring
17 on the carpet still, correct?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And you can see the treads on one tire
20 here in the first photograph, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And then if we go down, the second
23 photograph is more of a close-up of those treads,
24 correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And then here's an orientation where you
2 can see the treads on the bottom of both tires,
3 correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And these tires are rubber, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Do you know what the melting point of
8 rubber is?

9 A. Not offhand.

10 Q. Do you know what the melting point is of
11 the plastic casing for the hoverboard?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Is it -- it's a polymer product?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Have you been involved in any other
16 hoverboard fire investigations where you believed
17 the hoverboard was a cause of the fire but had a
18 similar appearance on the underside where you could
19 still see the color of the shell and the form of the
20 shell?

21 A. I have not been -- so the other
22 hoverboard case where I assisted, I don't have any
23 recollection or knowledge of the condition of that
24 board, so...

25 Q. The one other hoverboard case that you've

1 worked on, did you ever see the board that was being
2 investigated to determine if it had failed?

3 Or did you just see the exemplar?

4 A. I just saw the exemplar, to my memory.

5 Q. And your involvement with that exemplar
6 was coming up with a process to extract data from
7 it, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 MR. LAFLAMME: I'm just going to save
10 this now, before I forget.

11 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

12 Q. Did you do any testing in this case
13 relative to the hoverboard?

14 A. No.

15 (King Deposition Exhibit 80 marked.)

16 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

17 Q. I'll hand you what's been marked as
18 Exhibit 80.

19 And in Exhibit 80, this is from the CT
20 scan. Can you see the plug receptacle?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And that's the barrel with three pins in
23 it?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And looking at the plug receptacle, there

1 is no physical evidence that shows that anything was
2 plugged into that at the time of the fire, correct?

3 A. That's correct.

4 Q. In your analysis in this case, did you
5 ever do an assessment on any of the electrical
6 evidence that was identified in the smoking shed?

7 A. No.

8 Q. And I understand you haven't seen that
9 physical evidence. You also haven't seen the
10 photographs of the arcing that was present in the
11 smoking shed, correct?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Do you still have the exemplar
14 hoverboard?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And where is that maintained?

17 A. It's at our lab in the office.

18 Q. And understanding that you took apart the
19 exemplar hoverboard to a certain extent, why don't
20 you walk me through everything that you did with the
21 exemplar?

22 A. Well, it was really a disassembly to
23 document original orientation of the components.

24 Q. So when you did the disassembly, you --
25 because it's encased in the plastic shell, the

1 hoverboard shell, correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. You would have -- I believe it's
4 together with screws. Is that how it's secured?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. All right. So you would have removed the
7 screws and then pulled apart the two -- the bottom
8 and the upper half of the shell?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And then within the shell, then you
11 obviously have the internal components, correct?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. And those are shown on page 8 of your
14 PowerPoint. And in looking at the internal
15 components, it looks like you removed the battery
16 pack.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you disconnect the battery pack or
19 did it remain connected? Meaning with the wires.

20 A. It was unplugged.

21 Q. And then when you removed the battery
22 pack, what did you do with it?

23 A. Well, I measured the polarity of the
24 cells and marked them, as we discussed earlier,
25 positive and negative. And that was primarily it as

1 an orientation.

2 Q. So it sounds like the main purpose of
3 getting the exemplar was to, number one, figure out
4 the configuration of the battery pack.

5 A. (Witness nods.)

6 Q. Correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And then comparing that configuration to
9 the lithium-ion battery cells that were present in
10 the subject hoverboard?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And then you used that in order to come
13 up with a configuration of the cells that were
14 within the hoverboard by comparing it to the battery
15 pack.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And then you went through the labeling
18 process of labeling them 1 through 10?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And did anyone assist you with this
21 process?

22 A. Yes. I have an engineering assistant.

23 Q. Who is that?

24 A. Samuel Lee.

25 Q. Has Mr. Lee assisted in any other portion

1 of your investigation besides the exemplar
2 comparison?

3 A. We reviewed the CT scans together when we
4 were identifying orientation of the subject cells.

5 Q. Was Mr. Lee's role with respect to this
6 process in a -- I assume an assistive role, since
7 he's an engineering assistant?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. The ultimate determination as to the
10 configuration of the battery cells, was that your
11 determination?

12 A. Yes. We -- you know, we discussed what
13 we were observing and came to an agreement that we
14 both saw the same thing.

15 Q. Any other aspect of your investigation
16 that Mr. Lee assisted with?

17 A. I don't believe so.

18 Q. Did you ever look at the subject
19 hoverboard on any other date other than the date we
20 were all at your location on -- in February of this
21 year?

22 A. Yes. I don't recall the date, but it
23 arrived at our office, and then we did a
24 documentation of -- kind of a standard evidence
25 arrival documentation, and then we sent it out

1 somewhere. I don't recall where.

2 Q. The CT scan was not done in-house at your
3 location, right?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. When the hoverboard arrived at your
6 location, did you unwrap the hoverboard or did it
7 maintain -- or did it stay wrapped until our
8 inspection?

9 A. It -- I believe it was unwrapped.

10 Q. And when it was unwrapped, did you do any
11 specific inspection on the hoverboard at that time?

12 A. No. Only documentation. Photo
13 documentation.

14 Q. So you received the hoverboard. It was
15 received from Mr. Palmer's office, correct?

16 A. I couldn't say offhand.

17 Q. You received it from somewhere. Through
18 the intake process, you would have unwrapped it,
19 just done some general overview document --
20 photographs, correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And then it would have been provided to
23 whoever it was that you had do the CT scan?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And then it would have been returned to

1 BEAR?

2 A. It was eventually, yes.

3 Q. And then we had our inspection in
4 February of '24.

5 In between those two times, from when it
6 was initially taken in until the joint inspection in
7 February of '24, did you do any independent
8 inspections on this hoverboard?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Since February of '24, have you done any
11 independent inspections on this hoverboard?

12 A. No.

13 Q. And the hoverboard, I presume, is still
14 wrapped up at your location?

15 A. It is.

16 Q. Before I get into your report, why don't
17 we -- now is probably a good time to take a quick
18 lunch break.

19 A. Sure.

20 (Recess taken, 12:33 p.m. to
21 1:14 p.m. PDT)

22 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

23 Q. We may have had some miscommunication
24 earlier on temperature, so I just want to run
25 through that whole process again.

1 We had discussed what the temperature
2 would be for the contents that are being spilled out
3 of the internal portions of the cell as the short
4 circuit causes the cap to pop off.

5 A. Right.

6 Q. Do you remember that line of questioning?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Okay. And I had indicated that -- I had
9 asked you whether 1900 degrees Fahrenheit would be a
10 temperature that could be in the range when that
11 type of failure occurs. And you had indicated that
12 type of temperature was plausible, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. As far as the specific range of
15 temperatures that you would expect to see on a
16 short-circuit-type failure as the contents are being
17 spilled out of the battery cell, I don't believe you
18 had a specific range for that; is that correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And so as you sit here today, you aren't
21 able to give a specific range of what the
22 temperature would be of the contents spilling out of
23 the internal portions of the battery cell during a
24 short circuit failure other than the 1900-degree
25 Fahrenheit would be a plausible temperature.

1 A. Yeah. I could be a little more specific.
2 The contents could be a few hundred degrees Celsius.
3 The higher temperature, the 1900 that you suggested,
4 you know, that's going to come from the combustion
5 of the organic compounds as they come out, so...

6 Q. And just to break that down so that I --
7 I think I know what you're saying, but I want to
8 make sure I know what you're saying. The physical
9 contents that are being expelled, which I think has
10 sometimes been referred to as a jelly roll?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So the jelly roll contents, those
13 contents would be in the range of a few hundred
14 degrees Celsius, or could be.

15 A. Could be, yes.

16 Q. And when you say a few hundred degrees
17 Celsius, what range are you talking in that regard?

18 A. Two-, three-, 400, that type of range.

19 Q. So somewhere in the two- to 400 Celsius
20 degree range for the physical content temperature?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. Okay. And then for the combustion of the
23 contents that are being spilled, that's where you
24 can get a range of up to the 1900 degrees
25 Fahrenheit?

1 A. Right.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Yes?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. And we talked before about how,
7 when there is a short circuit of the nature that you
8 think occurred here, you have the spilled physical
9 contents but you also have combustion of those
10 contents in flame, correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So it's the combustion of those contents
13 and the flame that gets up into the 1900-degree
14 Fahrenheit range.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And did you look -- you did not look at
17 the melting temperature of any of the components
18 that would have been around the battery pack within
19 the internal portions of the hoverboard during your
20 assessment in this case, correct?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. And the tab that is inside the 18650 cell
23 that we looked at on the CT scan, I know you had
24 indicated that could be nickel.

25 Was that one of the materials?

1 A. Yes, just based on memory.

2 Q. Okay. It could also be aluminum?

3 A. I believe it could, yeah.

4 Q. As you sit here today, do you know what
5 metal was used for the tab within the lithium-ion
6 battery cells for this case?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Anything else besides nickel or aluminum
9 that it could be?

10 A. Not that I recall.

11 Q. Do you know what the melting temperature
12 is of aluminum?

13 A. No, not offhand.

14 Q. And then solder, we agreed, melts at
15 around 300 degrees Fahrenheit, correct?

16 A. That sounds right.

17 Q. I think the actual range is 275 to 350.
18 Does that sound accurate?

19 A. That sounds good, yeah.

20 Q. And that's Fahrenheit as opposed to
21 Celsius?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. All right. I had -- while you guys were
24 out, we marked as Exhibit 81, your report.

25 (King Deposition Exhibit 81 marked.)

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. And looking at your report, Exhibit 81,
3 this shows a date of July 12, 2024, in which it was
4 drafted, correct? Or at least completed.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Did you maintain any draft reports?

7 A. No.

8 Q. During your drafting process, do you meet
9 with counsel before finalizing the report?

10 A. Sometimes. Sometimes I will send a
11 draft, if -- but not always.

12 Q. Do you know if you sent a draft in this
13 case?

14 A. I don't recall. I don't think I did,
15 though.

16 Q. Has your primary contact in this case
17 always been Mr. Ayala?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Ever have any contact with an attorney
20 Greyson Goody?

21 A. No.

22 Q. How about an attorney, Mr. Goldrosen,
23 from Morgan & Morgan?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. On this case?

1 A. I -- maybe at the very beginning. I'm
2 not certain of that.

3 Q. You've worked with Mr. Goldrosen on some
4 other cases, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And specifically the Onewheel cases, I
7 believe you worked with him on?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. All right. Going to page 3 of your
10 report, which is where the substantive part of it
11 starts, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. The first part you just have a summary,
14 and in the summary you indicate that only one of
15 five investigators that investigated this fire
16 determined that they couldn't rule out a fire
17 starting outside.

18 Do you see that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You have not reviewed Chief Erdmann's or
21 Chief Robinson's deposition testimonies, have you?

22 A. I have not.

23 Q. Are you aware that Chief Erdmann
24 testified that he never came up with an origin
25 opinion?

1 A. No, I was not aware.

2 Q. Are you aware that Chief Robinson
3 indicated during his deposition that based on the
4 additional evidence about the smoking shed, that he
5 would need to investigate it further so that his
6 determination at the time was undetermined,
7 investigation -- further investigation required.

8 Were you aware of that?

9 MR. AYALA: Form.

10 A. No.

11 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

12 Q. You have not read either Chief Robinson's
13 or Chief Erdmann's deposition testimony, though, in
14 that regard?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. With respect to Ms. VanDongen, there's
17 the statement that she couldn't rule out a fire that
18 started outside the bedroom window, and then there's
19 a footnote number 2, which indicates call notes from
20 Angela Kelsey-Flowers.

21 Do you see that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Who is Angela Kelsey-Flowers?

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. So are these your call notes or are

1 these --

2 A. These are part of the materials provided
3 to me.

4 Q. So it looks like there is a Salesforce
5 record in your file that contains this information,
6 and then it says that it was created by Angela
7 Kelsey-Flowers on December 20th, 2022.

8 I think that's probably what you're
9 referring to.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you ever speak with Angela
12 Kelsey-Flowers about this note?

13 A. No.

14 Q. So as far as you are aware, at this point
15 it was just a note that you had in your file about
16 Ms. VanDongen's conclusion about not being able to
17 rule out an outside fire?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Have you reviewed the Matterport scan in
20 this case?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Have you done anything to assess the
23 potential of alternative causes of this fire outside
24 of the hoverboard?

25 A. No, I have not.

1 Q. And in looking at your file here, you
2 have some photographs -- or you have a section
3 called photos and videos, correct? And that was in
4 your document summary?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. It looks like the photos and videos
7 are -- there are some pictures provided by the
8 client which show some injury photos, correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And then there's the ESI, Daren Slee
11 photos from the first site inspection, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And then there is a subfolder, just
14 generically called Cause and Origin Investigation
15 Pics.

16 Do you know where that came from?

17 A. No.

18 Well, it was provided to me by counsel,
19 but...

20 Q. But, I mean, do you know who took those
21 photographs?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And then in one of your other subfile
24 folders, under Materials Received 6-20-24, that --
25 it looks like there are some depo summary notes from

1 Ms. Kremers, who's the Walmart deponent, and

2 Mr. Husain, who was the Jetson deponent.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And those depo summaries, did you put
5 those together?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. And I do see the admin folder now with
8 the retainer agreement.

9 And at the time of the retainer
10 agreement, which would have been signed on
11 September 5, 2023, I assume that's when BEAR was
12 first engaged in this case?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And it looks like you -- BEAR was engaged
15 by Attorney Goldrosen from Morgan & Morgan, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And then at the time, your per-hour
18 expert fee was 175 per hour?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Did that go up, then, this year?

21 A. For -- yes, for 2024.

22 Q. So at the turn of -- as of January 1,
23 2024, is that when it went up to 200?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Looking at page 3 of your expert report,

1 you go on to state below the photographs that:

2 These batteries are known -- are a known fire
3 hazard, and UL standard 2272 was developed to help
4 address this hazard in devices such as the subject
5 board.

6 Do you see that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So when you're saying these batteries are
9 a known fire hazard, and then UL 2272 was developed,
10 that standard was put together by UL to address the
11 prior fire hazards that were involved with earlier
12 lithium-ion battery products, correct?

13 A. Yes. My understanding is that standard
14 addresses, like, personal mobility devices. You
15 know, where I say these batteries are a known fire
16 hazard, that's based on a broader application of the
17 batteries.

18 Q. And understanding UL 2272 is the overall
19 standard that hoverboards fall under, correct?

20 A. Right.

21 Q. And there's not anything that you've done
22 in this case that has identified a deviation from
23 the UL 2272 standards, correct?

24 MR. AYALA: Form.

25 A. Not specifically, no.

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. Just to be real clear, is there any
3 aspect of this hoverboard that you believe deviated
4 from UL 2272 standards?

5 MR. AYALA: Form.

6 A. No, other than I believe it's more likely
7 to be a source of fire, but...

8 No, I haven't reviewed the design
9 documentation for this board.

10 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

11 Q. You haven't reviewed the design
12 documentation or any of the UL test records for this
13 hoverboard, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And you haven't reviewed any of the UL
16 test records for the battery cells in this
17 hoverboard, correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. On page 4 of your report, it goes through
20 materials reviewed, and those are all of the
21 materials that you had reviewed at the time of your
22 report, correct?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And then the only additional material
25 that you've reviewed was skimming through Detective

1 Sheaman's deposition transcript this weekend?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And nothing else that you've reviewed,
4 correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. Going to page 5 in your report. I think
7 we talked about this photograph during your
8 PowerPoint exhibit. And it looks like your
9 PowerPoint exhibit somewhat tracks your report,
10 correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So looking at Figure 3 on page 5, that
13 shows the interior wood consumption in the studs
14 between the hallway and the bedroom, correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And although you have it labeled as a V
17 pattern, you aren't testifying that that is indeed a
18 V pattern under your investigation, correct?

19 A. Correct. It just resembles a V visually.

20 Q. But you aren't stating with respect to
21 your investigation that what we're looking at here
22 in Figure 3 on page 5 of your report is a V pattern
23 under NFPA 921, correct?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And then Figure 4, we also talked about

1 that on your PowerPoint, correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And then we talked about the three
4 bullets points which mirror your PowerPoint on
5 page 6 of your report as well?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. In looking at Figure 5, page 7 of your
8 report, this is just an overview of the damaged
9 hoverboard, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And then on the right side, you -- in
12 between the batteries and the wheel, you can see
13 that colored insulation a little bit on the wiring,
14 correct?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. If you could go to page 10.

17 On the last paragraph of Section 5, you
18 say: A more detailed root cause analysis may be
19 performed after additional documentation has been
20 provided for the Plasma board, battery pack and
21 battery cells.

22 Do you see that?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. What additional documentation were you
25 looking for?

1 A. If we wanted to do this type of analysis,
2 it would be product specifications for the board and
3 the cells, and the battery pack. It would be the
4 test reports for the cells and battery pack, as well
5 as the hoverboard overall.

6 So that would be like UL reports. I
7 believe there's an IEC standard as well.

8 Yeah. Any -- if Jetson did any FMEAs for
9 this board or components, I would want to see those
10 also.

11 Q. The UL test standards for the hoverboard
12 and the battery cells and battery pack, those mirror
13 what an FMEA process would be, correct?

14 MR. AYALA: Form.

15 A. I don't think so, no.

16 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

17 Q. Okay. So you think an FMEA would be
18 different from what the UL test requirements are?

19 A. Yeah. It's -- it's a different process.
20 I mean, you know, some of the factors, which you
21 come up with or, you know, Jetson would come up with
22 in their FMEA, may be addressed in the standards,
23 but that -- it's not -- they're not the same thing.

24 Q. Do you know if -- did Jetson manufacture
25 this hoverboard?

1 A. I don't know the manufacturer, how that
2 relates to the Jetson name.

3 Q. Do you know if Jetson designed the
4 hoverboard and its components?

5 A. I don't -- I don't recall. I believe
6 Mr. Husain addressed that, but...

7 Q. You are aware that Mr. Husain testified
8 that the manufacturer is a Chinese company, correct?

9 A. I just -- I don't recall specifically,
10 but that sounds plausible.

11 Q. And that the Chinese manufacturer was the
12 one that designed the hoverboard, other than some
13 aesthetic portions that Jetson had some input in.

14 Do you recall that testimony?

15 A. No, not specifically, no.

16 Q. Did you read all of Mr. Husain's
17 deposition?

18 A. I did, yes.

19 Q. When was the last time you read it?

20 A. That would be prior to this report.

21 Q. Obviously, Mr. Husain's testimony will
22 speak for itself, but you don't have any evidence
23 that Jetson designed or manufactured this
24 hoverboard, correct?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Jetson imported this hoverboard from a
2 Chinese manufacturer, and then sold it, in this
3 case, through Walmart.

4 MR. AYALA: Form.

5 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

6 Q. Is that your understanding?

7 A. That's my understanding, yeah.

8 Q. So looking at Section 6, which is your
9 Design and FMEA Risk Assessment section, on page 10,
10 11, and 12, this section of your report looks almost
11 identical to other FMEA reports that BEAR has put
12 out.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Okay. And so this is, at least that
15 portion of Section 6 -- and understanding you go
16 into the specifics on this case a little at the end
17 of it, but on page 10, 11, and 12, those are all
18 common background FMEA information that you have put
19 in other reports as well --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And BEAR has put in a number of reports?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. So with respect to the specific criticism

1 that you have on the FMEA side, we're really just
2 looking at this last paragraph on page 13 where it
3 says: Jetson should have conducted an FMEA or other
4 risk assessment to eliminate unnecessary risks as
5 part of their design process. Correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And in this case, your primary concern
8 would be with the battery cells, since that's what
9 you believe failed, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 (King Deposition Exhibit 82 marked.)

12 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

13 Q. Hand you what's been marked as
14 Exhibit 82.

15 And looking at Exhibit 82, have you seen
16 these types of documents before?

17 A. Not in this case.

18 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with them
19 generally?

20 A. I believe I have seen these before in
21 other cases.

22 Q. Okay. What other cases?

23 A. I believe there was a scooter case, but
24 it's not something I've seen often.

25 Q. Okay. Well, looking at Exhibit 82, you

1 can see that it bears the Bates number JETSON 322 on
2 the first page.

3 Do you see that?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Indicating this has been a
6 document that's been produced in this case. But
7 this is the first time you've seen it, correct?

8 A. Yeah, it is.

9 Q. In looking at Exhibit 82, you can see
10 Test Record No. 1, where it says: Samples of the
11 personal e-mobility devices, models -- and then it
12 says, colon, Plasma. As indicated below and
13 constructed as described herein, were selected and
14 submitted by the manufacturer for examination and
15 test to representative of all models.

16 Do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. So the test process included some samples
19 of the Plasma model hoverboard, correct?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And if you look at the first page, and
22 you go down to the battery and cell configuration
23 for scooters, you can see that we have our same cell
24 model, the INR18650P 9.0 watt-hours.

25 * * *

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And that's the same battery that is used
3 in the Plasma model, correct?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And then if you go to page 2, you can see
6 that there are a number of tests that were conducted
7 on this hoverboard.

8 Do you see that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And one of them is a short-circuit test,
11 correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And a short-circuit issue is the specific
14 issue that you believe was the concern with cells 4
15 and 10 in the subject hoverboard?

16 A. The short-circuit issue that I was
17 concerned about is internal to the battery.

18 Q. Okay. So is the short-circuit issue
19 that's being tested here, do you believe that that's
20 different than internal to the battery?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Where is the short-circuit issue that's
23 being tested for this?

24 A. Let's see. I am looking for that
25 information.

1 [Document review.]

2 A. I don't know if I'm just missing it, but
3 I -- when I look through this, I don't see any
4 information on that short-circuit test.

5 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

6 Q. You think that that short-circuit test
7 may be different -- a different test than what is
8 the short circuit that you have a concern about in
9 this case?

10 A. Yes. I believe it's a short circuit
11 external to the cell.

12 Q. Going to the last page of this
13 JETSON 332, there's a Conclusion section.

14 Do you see that?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And then it says: The product covered by
17 this report has been found to comply with the
18 requirements covering the category and the product
19 is found to comply with UL's applicable
20 requirements.

21 Do you see that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that's an indication that the Plasma
24 model, as tested, met the applicable UL
25 requirements, correct?

1 MR. AYALA: Form.

2 A. Yes.

3 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

4 Q. To get the 2580 UL certification for a
5 lithium-ion battery cell, do you know what the test
6 process is?

7 A. I don't recall that offhand. Yeah, I
8 don't recall all the steps offhand.

9 Q. Do you recall any of the steps?

10 A. The standard that I was once familiar
11 with included crush tests, piercing tests,
12 short-circuit tests with a specified resistance,
13 temperature-related tests.

14 Q. So the testing to get a 2580
15 certification would include a short-circuit test on
16 the battery cell, correct?

17 A. And -- yes, an external short.

18 Q. You don't think they would test an
19 internal short circuit at all?

20 A. No.

21 Q. And what are you basing that on?

22 A. Well, internal shorts are caused by a
23 breakdown in the separator. So, I guess, it -- you
24 know, I should say an internal short could be tested
25 in some way through a piercing test, possibly, and

1 exposure to high enough temperature to melt and
2 shrink the separator.

3 So it -- those types of tests could be --
4 could include internal shorting.

5 Q. So internal shorting is tested to a
6 certain extent in order to get the UL 2580
7 certification for a battery cell, correct?

8 A. I believe it is, yeah.

9 Q. And are you aware of who's on the roster
10 for 2580 in coming up with the test standards?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Did the -- the FMEA process, that derived
13 from the US military; is that where it was first
14 utilized?

15 A. Yeah. Yeah, if I recall their history
16 and background correctly.

17 Q. Are you aware that the U.S. Army is a
18 governmental member of the 2580 standards committee?

19 A. No.

20 Q. And the U.S. Consumer Protection Safety
21 Commission is a member of the 2580 committee?
22 You're not aware of that?

23 A. No.

24 (King Deposition Exhibit 83 marked.)

25 * * *

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. I'll hand you what's been marked as
3 Exhibit 83.

4 And up top you can see in the left-hand
5 side that it says TC, which I understand stands for
6 technical committee. Is that your understanding as
7 well?

8 A. That sounds right.

9 Q. And so this is the technical committee
10 roster for UL 2580 batteries for use in electric
11 vehicles.

12 Do you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And 2580 is the test standard that
15 applies to the batteries utilized in the Plasma
16 hoverboard?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you can see that the U.S. Army is a
19 member of the technical committee, correct?

20 A. Where is that?

21 Q. It's about halfway down on the first
22 page.

23 A. Oh, yes.

24 Q. Yi Ding, Y-I, D-I-N-G, is the individual
25 from the U.S. Army.

1 Do you see that?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And then further down on that page you
4 can see that the U.S. Consumer Protection Safety
5 Commission is a member as well?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And then if you go to the second page,
8 CSA Group, which is the Canadian standards
9 association, they are a member as well?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Okay. And these are all the individuals
12 that come together to put together the test
13 standards for UL 2584 lithium-ion battery cells
14 that -- for use in electric vehicles, which includes
15 hoverboards in this case, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 (King Deposition Exhibit 84 marked.)

18 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

19 Q. Mr. King, I'll show you what's been
20 marked as Exhibit 84.

21 And this is the front page of the UL 2580
22 standard, correct --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- on page 1. And then on page 2 -- or,
25 sorry, page 12 and 13, it talks about standards that

1 are -- other standards that are incorporated into
2 this standard, correct?

3 A. That appears to be the case.

4 Q. You're familiar with UL codes, or UL
5 standards, correct?

6 A. In general, yes.

7 Q. And then at the beginning of each UL
8 standard, they list a number of other standards that
9 are incorporated into that standard, correct?

10 A. Right.

11 Q. That's a pretty standard -- typical
12 process for the UL standards, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And then if you look at page 13 under the
15 SAE standards, do you know what SAE stands for?

16 A. So it was Society of Automotive
17 Engineers.

18 Q. Okay. Under SAE J1739, you can see that
19 there's a design and process FMEA that is actually
20 incorporated into 2580.

21 Do you see that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So 2580, for the battery cells
24 themselves, goes through an FMEA-type test process
25 in order to get that certification, correct?

1 MR. AYALA: Form.

2 A. Maybe. I really -- I don't know the
3 details of how this SAE standard is incorporated
4 into 2580 or how it informed 2580's contents.

5 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

6 Q. Okay. But as we sit here today, you
7 don't know at all what the test process is in order
8 to get a 2580 certification, correct?

9 A. No, I'm not very familiar with this
10 standard.

11 Q. And you don't know how the test process
12 for UL 2580 would or would not differ in any way
13 from an FMEA, correct?

14 A. Well, no. The -- doing a test process
15 is -- you follow steps, you know, perform certain --
16 perform certain tests, collect data.

17 That's one type of process. Performing
18 an FMEA is a different type of process. It's not --
19 so performing an FMEA is -- a lot of it is a thought
20 and documentation process where, you know, the
21 interested parties figure out failure modes and rate
22 them and risk severity/occurrence, and then tend to
23 figure out root causes.

24 So that's an FMEA process. And then, of
25 course, that gets updated by real-world data, so,

1 you know, consumer complaints, incidents, anything
2 that could drive a re-evaluation of what's already
3 been laid out.

4 Q. Well, in your report here at page 13, you
5 reference FMEA or other risk assessment to eliminate
6 unnecessary risks as part of their design process.

7 Do you see that?

8 A. Yes. Mm-hmm, I do.

9 Q. When you say "their" design process,
10 whose design are you talking about?

11 A. Well, when I wrote this, I mean, the
12 only -- the only name I was really familiar with was
13 Jetson, so, you know, at the time in my mind, it
14 would -- it was Jetson who would do it.

15 Q. Do you have any information as to what
16 FMEA or other risk assessment process may have been
17 adopted by the manufacturer for this hoverboard?

18 A. I don't have that information.

19 Q. But you are aware that the battery cells
20 that were utilized in this hoverboard were UL
21 certified, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And would have gone through the UL test
24 process to get that UL 2580 certification.

25 A. Yes.

1 MR. AYALA: Form.

2 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

3 Q. And you are aware that the hoverboard in
4 this case was UL 2272 certified, correct?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And would have had to go through the
7 UL 2272 test process to obtain that certification.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And the UL test process in order to
10 obtain UL certification is done to identify whether
11 the product has certain risks that need to be
12 addressed on design, correct?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. With respect to the battery cells in this
15 case, there were not any battery cells that failed
16 along the end walls, correct? Or the side walls,
17 sorry.

18 MR. AYALA: Form.

19 A. I think I would want to take a look at a
20 picture.

21 Oh, wait. What do you mean by side
22 walls?

23 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

24 Q. The tube.

25 A. Oh, like a -- for example, like a

1 puncture? Is that what you mean?

2 Q. A puncture or that there was a -- some
3 sort of a blowout on a side wall.

4 A. Right. Yeah, I didn't see any side wall
5 failures.

6 Q. This is going to be a terrible analogy,
7 but when you put a microwave in a hot dog, how it --
8 you get a big crack along the length of the hot dog?

9 A. Right.

10 Q. Picture that being the lithium-ion
11 battery cell. There was not any separating along --
12 of the side wall of any of the battery cells,
13 correct?

14 MR. AYALA: Let me just object to the
15 form. And I think he meant it in the inverse.
16 You put the hot dog in the microwave, not the
17 other way around.

18 MR. LAFLAMME: Oh, did I say --

19 MR. AYALA: It would be hard to put a
20 microwave in the hot dog. Although, nowadays,
21 who knows what they put in them.

22 MR. LAFLAMME: Yeah, duly noted.

23 That's probably a valid objection, so --

24 MR. AYALA: But you understood what
25 he was asking you?

1 A. Yeah, I didn't observe any failures as
2 you described.

3 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

4 Q. Okay. And the only two cells that had
5 any failures in which they expelled their contents
6 were cells 4 and 10, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you -- you have not done any -- or
9 strike that.

10 Are you aware of any circuit breakers --
11 were there any circuit breakers tripped in this
12 house?

13 A. Not as I sit here. I don't remember any.

14 Q. And circuit breakers will often trip
15 during a fire when the circuit that it is protecting
16 is energized and impacted by fire?

17 MR. AYALA: Form.

18 A. Yes. Yes, they can -- they -- I don't
19 know that they always do, but certainly they can,
20 yes.

21 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

22 Q. With respect to cells 4 and 10, you
23 believe -- and I'll use your words -- I think you
24 used that those cells would have failed near
25 simultaneously, correct? In your --

1 A. Approximately, yeah.

2 Q. And with respect to such a failure with
3 regards to a short circuit, the only way the short
4 circuit can occur is if the separator has a failure
5 within the internal cell, correct?

6 A. For an -- yes, for an internal short.

7 Q. And that's what we're talking about here
8 is an internal short, correct?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And then how long, once the separator
11 fails and there's an internal short, how long does
12 it take for the cell to expel through its end cap?

13 A. The time varies, but it can be on the
14 order of a few minutes.

15 Q. A few minutes would be on the high end or
16 on the average side?

17 A. That would be on the high end.

18 Q. And then what's on the low end? Seconds?

19 A. Seconds, yeah.

20 Q. Have you done any -- let me take a step
21 back.

22 I assume you have not done any assessment
23 as to, if the fire had started at the hoverboard,
24 how the two boys that were in that room were able to
25 escape uninjured, correct? You haven't done any

1 fire analysis in that regard?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. And with respect to your work in this
4 case, you were really just focused on the hoverboard
5 and that's it, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Have you ever spoken with anyone from the
8 Wadsworth family?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Have you ever spoken with any witnesses
11 in this case?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Has your only contact in this case been
14 with individuals with Morgan & Morgan?

15 A. Yes. And, of course, at the inspection.

16 Q. Sure. When we were there at the joint
17 inspection?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Do you know what temperature carpeting
20 starts to melt at?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Is there any additional work that you
23 plan to do in this case?

24 A. Not -- not that I plan at this time. Not
25 unless I'm asked to.

1 Q. What did you do to prepare for today's
2 deposition?

3 A. I reviewed my report. I looked through
4 the photographs that were provided to me.

5 I looked through the PowerPoint.

6 I skimmed through Sheaman's deposition
7 over the weekend. That was -- yeah, those were the
8 things I looked at.

9 Q. Did you meet with counsel at all?

10 A. No. We -- we didn't meet until today.

11 Q. Did you meet this morning before your
12 deposition?

13 A. Yeah. We met over in the lobby.

14 Q. How long did you guys meet for?

15 A. Five, ten minutes maybe.

16 Q. Did you review any documents in
17 preparation for your deposition?

18 A. With counsel or --

19 Q. Correct. Yeah.

20 A. No.

21 Q. You already talked about some of the
22 documents that you reviewed generally lead up to
23 today --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 MR. LAFLAMME: I'll go through my
3 notes here, but I think I'm probably done. I
4 don't know if Mr. Ayala has any follow-up or
5 not.

6 MR. AYALA: I have a few. I guess
7 let's go off the record for a minute just so I
8 can try and organize my notes.

9 (Recess taken, 2:11 p.m. to
10 2:17 p.m. PDT)

11 -----

12 EXAMINATION

13 -----

14 BY MR. AYALA:

15 Q. Mr. King, I have some follow-ups with
16 you. And bear with me, I'm going to be jumping
17 around a little bit. And I'd like to start out
18 where Mr. LaFlamme left off, if I could.

19 He was discussing with you Exhibits 84,
20 which purports to be the ANSI/CAN/UL/ULC 2580 for
21 the year 2022, Standard For Safety, as well as
22 Exhibit 82, which purports to be the UL FMEA testing
23 relating to the Plasma.

24 Do you recall reviewing those a little
25 bit ago?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. With regards to Exhibit 84, if you turn
3 to page, I guess 12 -- it's listed as 12.

4 At the very top, same line that it
5 mentions the page, on the right-hand side, do you
6 see it says June 28, 2022?

7 A. I see.

8 Q. You are aware of the date of our incident
9 that we're here about today?

10 A. I believe it was February 2022.

11 Q. The contents of Exhibit 84, are you
12 familiar or knowledgeable as to whether or not they
13 were applicable to the full extent represented to
14 you in this exhibit on the date of incident?

15 A. I'm not aware of what changes --

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. -- existed, you know, prior to this
18 update.

19 Q. You haven't been showed, for purposes of
20 today's deposition, any standard applicable on the
21 date of incident, correct?

22 A. I don't believe so.

23 Q. You were shown Exhibit 82, which
24 purported to be the FMEA relating to this particular
25 model, the Plasma model.

1 And by the way, you mentioned a few
2 times, undertaking the investigative portion of at
3 least your scope and your role in this case, at all
4 times did you assume Jetson to be the manufacturer
5 of this hoverboard?

6 A. I did, until reading Mr. Husain's
7 deposition, yes.

8 Q. So, in other words, you had the benefit
9 of Mr. Husain's deposition to learn that it was in
10 fact manufactured in China?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do you know if consumers have that same
13 benefit?

14 A. I'm not aware how easily that's knowable.

15 Q. Can we at least agree that as you looked
16 at not just the hoverboard related to this case, but
17 also the exemplar, that the hoverboards are marked
18 with the Jetson name and logo?

19 A. Yes, I did see that.

20 Q. Looking at Exhibit 82, did you find
21 anywhere in the exhibit presented to you the testing
22 for the 2580 relating to this Plasma?

23 A. From -- not in Exhibit 82. There's a
24 list of tests done, but they're all for 2272.

25 Q. Okay. And as you discussed earlier, the

1 testing for the 2272 UL, quote/unquote, standard,
2 does not test for internal shorting; is that
3 correct?

4 A. I don't believe it does, no.

5 Q. By the way, if you turn to the last page,
6 that at least a portion of the conclusion was read
7 to you.

8 A. Okay.

9 Q. It states: A sample of the product
10 covered by this report has been found to comply with
11 the requirements covering the category, and the
12 product is found to comply with UL's applicable
13 requirements.

14 And then the next sentence says: The
15 description and test result in this report are only
16 applicable to the samples investigated by UL.

17 Do you see that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. In other words, however many samples were
20 tested and investigated by UL, this FMEA reporting
21 relates to those samples, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Is that how you read it and interpret it?

24 A. That's what the words say, yes.

25 Q. Okay. Can we at least agree that as it

1 relates to Jetson hoverboards, and in particular,
2 the Plasma model, not every unit is tested against
3 the UL standards, whether it's 2272 or 2580?

4 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

5 A. I think that's a likely -- that's likely
6 to be true.

7 BY MR. AYALA:

8 Q. In other words, what is at least
9 demonstrated by Exhibit 82 is that there is a sample
10 of this particular model that is tested. Not every
11 unit within that model is actually tested, fair?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You've not received, reviewed, or looked
14 at anything that would lead you to the conclusion
15 that the Wadsworth hoverboard was a specific unit
16 tested against the UL standards?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. Is it your understanding, based on your
19 background, training, and experience, that
20 hoverboards offered for sale in the United States
21 currently must be UL 2272 listed or tested?

22 A. That's my understanding, yes.

23 Q. Would that have been the case in 2023 as
24 well?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Opposing counsel brought up with you a
2 little bit earlier in your deposition another Jetson
3 hoverboard model known as the Rogue.

4 A. Mm-hmm.

5 Q. Do you remember that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Based upon either your work related to
8 this case or any other cases that you've been
9 involved with dealing with hoverboards, did you come
10 to learn that the Jetson Rogue hoverboard or scooter
11 was in fact recalled back in 2023?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And that there was a recall notice that
14 was posted and put out by the Consumer Product
15 Safety Commission, correct?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And in fact, the Consumer Product Safety
18 Commission, they are one of the TCs on Exhibit 83
19 that opposing counsel showed you?

20 A. They are.

21 Q. At some point in time did you review the
22 recall notice of the Jetson Rogue?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. Did you come to learn that the Jetson
25 Rogue was a scooter offered for sale with the name

1 of Jetson and it was at least identified as being UL
2 certified?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. UL listed under 2272?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. And the lithium-ion battery under 2580?

7 A. That one, I didn't see that specifically.

8 Q. Assume with me that it was.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. How does a hoverboard put out by Jetson,
11 UL 2272 and UL 2580 rated and certified, how is that
12 recalled due to a potential for fire hazard?

13 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

14 A. Well, the cause of fire must not be
15 adequately covered by the testing standards in order
16 for that to occur.

17 BY MR. AYALA:

18 Q. In other words, products that are UL 2272
19 and UL 2580 rated and certified can still be a risk
20 of fire?

21 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

22 A. That appears to be the case, if that's
23 what occurred with the Rogue, and to the extent that
24 that occurred here.

25 * * *

1 BY MR. AYALA:

2 Q. And in fact, in the recall notice put out
3 by the CPSC, they cited to incidents relating to
4 that particular model, and one of them involving a
5 10-year-old and a 15-year-old who died in a fire in
6 Pennsylvania in April of 2022.

7 Do you remember reviewing that when you
8 looked at the recall notice?

9 A. I didn't recall that specifically.

10 Q. And it was determined in that case, which
11 led to the recall, that the Jetson Rogue was the
12 point of origin of the fire directly in the CPSC
13 recall notice.

14 Do you recall seeing that?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. They went on to state: There have been
17 multiple other reports of the recalled scooters and
18 hoverboards burning, sparking or melting, several of
19 which involved reports of flames.

20 Do you recall seeing that in the recall
21 notice put out by the CPSC?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And so even though a product, including
24 the Plasma in this case, is UL 2272 and UL 2580
25 rated or certified, that does not prevent the

1 occurrence of an internal short or some other
2 malfunction that could lead to a fire hazard.

3 Do you agree with that?

4 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

5 A. Yes. I agree that meeting the standards
6 is not a guarantee.

7 BY MR. AYALA:

8 Q. By the way, you were shown Exhibit 83
9 with a list of the TCs. What does TC stand for
10 again?

11 A. Technical committee.

12 Q. Was Jetson on there?

13 [Document review.]

14 A. I don't see it on here.

15 BY MR. AYALA:

16 Q. Were you shown any document by opposing
17 counsel of the testing, the FMEA testing performed
18 relating to the Plasma to comply with this 2580 UL
19 standard?

20 [Document review.]

21 A. No.

22 So it appears that Exhibit 74 is at least
23 related to 2580.

24 BY MR. AYALA:

25 Q. Okay. So let's look at that together.

1 Okay. Refer me to the page, please?

2 A. The second page, 0312.

3 Q. Okay. And what is -- what is Exhibit 74?

4 What is your understanding of what this
5 document is?

6 A. This is a test report from a UL
7 laboratory, and the description is that it's
8 authorizing the manufacturer -- it's just
9 authorizing the manufacturer to reproduce the report
10 for purposes in the conclusion.

11 But it appears to be a test report of the
12 individual cell.

13 Q. Okay. Does this test report describe the
14 UL 2580 specific requirements as it relates to
15 testing of those individual cell components?

16 A. Let's see. So on 0314, they have marked
17 2580 Appendix B.

18 Q. What is Appendix B?

19 A. I'm not familiar with Appendix B.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. The remainder of this report appears to
22 be descriptive, so capacities, dimensions. There
23 are temperature ranges, markings. The last page is
24 also construction, composition.

25 Q. Okay. So my question is, does anything

1 in Exhibit 74 outline the individual tests performed
2 on the battery cell components to ensure its
3 compliance with 2580 in its entirety?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Have you been shown any document that
6 relays that type of information specifically as it
7 relates to the battery cells in the Plasma battery
8 pack?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Who created this report?

11 A. I'm not certain. Possibly UL LLC.
12 That's who is claiming the copyright.

13 Q. So have you seen or been shown today any
14 specific testing performed either by Jetson or on
15 behalf of the Jetson hoverboard by the manufacturer
16 listed on page 1 of Exhibit 74 that pertains to the
17 Plasma battery cells?

18 A. No. No, this document does not contain
19 testing.

20 Q. The front page of 74 states: UL LLC
21 authorizes the above-named company -- I'm assuming
22 it's the Jiangxi Jiuding Power New Energy Technology
23 Co., Ltd. -- the named company to reproduce this
24 report only for purposes as described in the
25 Conclusion.

1 Does 74 contain a conclusion, at least as
2 it's been presented to you?

3 A. No, it does not.

4 Q. So you don't know what that conclusion
5 provides or states relating to this UL 2580 and this
6 named company?

7 A. I do not.

8 Q. The second sentence of that paragraph
9 says: The report should be reproduced in its
10 entirety.

11 Do you believe that it was produced in
12 its entirety since it's missing a conclusion?

13 A. No.

14 MR. AYALA: By the way, for the court
15 reporter's benefit, the named company is
16 J-I-A-N-G-X-I, and then Jiuding is
17 J-I-U-D-I-N-G, hyphen, Power, and the rest of
18 the name that I read off.

19 I was brave enough to try it.

20 MR. LAFLAMME: It was a good effort.

21 MR. AYALA: It was. I'm sure I fell
22 short.

23 MR. LAFLAMME: I couldn't tell you
24 how accurate it is, though.

25 * * *

1 BY MR. AYALA:

2 Q. You were asked questions by opposing
3 counsel relating to whether or not you've ever
4 worked for companies that design or manufacture
5 lithium-ion batteries.

6 Do you remember some of that early on?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And your response was no, correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. And despite not having worked for such
11 companies, in your past and in your experience, you
12 have had exposure to lithium-ion batteries where
13 you've been called to inspect and investigate and
14 analyze those types of batteries. Is that fair?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Obviously, this is one of those cases.
17 You mentioned another hoverboard case you were asked
18 to assist with?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. In addition to those two, as part of your
21 experience -- your work experience with BEAR, have
22 there been cases taken for investigation and
23 inspection involving electric scooters?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Have you been involved with cases at BEAR

1 involving other types of lithium-ion batteries where
2 you've been called upon to inspect and analyze
3 failures?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What types of products have you looked at
6 and investigated and inspected lithium-ion
7 batteries?

8 A. I assisted with an electric bike or two
9 or three. I don't recall the count.

10 Many e-cigarette applications.

11 A -- I would call it like a power bank
12 type of device.

13 Q. And in all of those cases where you've
14 been involved in inspecting and analyzing and
15 investigating lithium-ion battery failures, I would
16 assume, and correct me if I'm wrong, but the
17 capacities of those various lithium-ion batteries
18 vary?

19 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

20 Go ahead.

21 A. Yes.

22 BY MR. AYALA:

23 Q. But as it relates to how those batteries
24 are put together and generally operate, are they
25 similar in nature?

1 A. They are similar in the overall
2 construction.

3 Q. So when it comes to your experience in
4 inspecting and analyzing lithium-ion batteries that
5 are integrated into products, like the one we're
6 dealing with in this case, you not only have that
7 familiarity, but you have that experience as it
8 relates to analyzing and understanding those types
9 of failures. Is that fair?

10 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

11 A. Yes.

12 BY MR. AYALA:

13 Q. You were asked questions about some of
14 the wiring that may be seen on one or two of the
15 photos and them retaining their color.

16 Do you remember some of those questions?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you've been asked questions about the
19 possibility of this fire originating somewhere other
20 than at the hoverboard.

21 Do you remember some of that?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. As part of your inspection and
24 investigation in this case, did you analyze the
25 possibility of the fire not having originated in

1 this hoverboard battery pack?

2 A. I considered that possibility, yes.

3 Q. Okay. And you've reviewed the photos,
4 you've considered just based on some of your
5 background, training, and experience. Is that fair?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Have you reviewed, over the course of
8 your -- over the course of your career, have you
9 reviewed research and literature that talks about
10 lithium-ion battery failures?

11 A. Yes.

12 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

13 BY MR. AYALA:

14 Q. Have you reviewed literature and seen
15 research and conducted your own investigations as to
16 electrical arcing and the significance or
17 insignificance of that?

18 A. Yes, with -- especially with respect to
19 lithium batteries.

20 Q. You discussed with opposing counsel the
21 fact that the colored wires that existed would
22 not -- you wouldn't expect to see electrical arcing
23 relating to those wires unless the motor was on and
24 activated. Is that true?

25 A. Right. Because I don't believe those

1 wires would be energized.

2 Q. And let me ask you, because there was a
3 lot of time spent on whether you were familiar with
4 the melting temperature of rubber, whether you were
5 familiar with the melting temperature of various
6 other materials.

7 Do you remember some of those questions?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You were even asked whether you were
10 familiar with the melting temperature of the casing
11 for the wiring.

12 Do you remember that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Have you considered in this case, as part
15 of your investigation and involvement, if the fire
16 originated from an outside source, meaning not the
17 hoverboard, the effect and impact the outside source
18 of that fire would have on the wiring?

19 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

20 A. I did have some consideration for that,
21 yes.

22 BY MR. AYALA:

23 Q. Would you expect that if a fire that
24 consumed the Wadsworth home would have consumed the
25 hoverboard, as we have seen in the various

1 photographs included in your file as well as in this
2 case in its entirety, would you expect the wiring,
3 the wiring casing to be melted?

4 A. Overall, that wiring has -- it goes
5 through that metal tube. It's like a hollow axle,
6 with a wheel.

7 I mean, whether the fire was inside --
8 started inside of the hoverboard or came from
9 outside, it's not surprising that that short section
10 would be potentially protected.

11 Q. All right. And regardless of whether the
12 fire started internally within the hoverboard
13 battery pack or externally by some other source, the
14 effect and impact on the hoverboard in terms of its
15 destruction, would you see it as one and the same?

16 A. Well, if it was external, then it -- it
17 depends on the -- how the fire progresses through
18 the home and reaches the hoverboard. You know, the
19 hoverboard is less damaged on the bottom, which is
20 at least suggestive that if there was the external
21 fire reaching it, it approached from the top of the
22 hoverboard, versus starting inside the hoverboard;
23 you know, the battery pack is at approximately
24 midline. It's not surprising that it would burn
25 upwards.

1 Q. Okay. In other words, in response to
2 some of the questions you were asked about the
3 underside of that hoverboard, the wheels, the
4 carpeting, it's not surprising to you in your
5 investigation that portions of the carpeting were
6 still intact?

7 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

8 A. Yes. It's -- I mean, seeing portions of
9 carpet intact, in other -- this fire and in other
10 fires, that just happens when there's a -- some kind
11 of obstruction between flame and the carpet. So,
12 no, it's not a surprising observance.

13 BY MR. AYALA:

14 Q. The amount of either burn, melting, or
15 destruction to the underside of the hoverboard
16 wheels, would that also depend on the direction of
17 which the -- either explosion or expulsion from the
18 battery pack occurring?

19 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

20 A. With regard to the wheels?

21 BY MR. AYALA:

22 Q. Correct. With regard to the underside of
23 the wheels that you were shown.

24 A. Oh, yes. The portion that was in contact
25 with the carpet?

1 Q. Correct.

2 A. No. That portion being in contact with
3 the carpet, we saw that area was already protected
4 somewhat from the fire, so no, it's not surprising
5 that the wheels were also mostly -- or the tread was
6 intact.

7 Q. You were asked whether you were surprised
8 that the failure that occurred at .78 inches away
9 would not have burned away the wire casing, the
10 colored wire casing.

11 Do you remember that question?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Whether the hoverboard was the source or
14 the hoverboard was attacked by fire, you're still of
15 the opinion that this fire originated as a result of
16 the failure of the battery cells that you have
17 identified?

18 A. Right. The color remaining -- you know,
19 the wire insulation remaining intact, I only recall
20 seeing a short section, so -- and to me, that looks
21 like the section that would be inside that metal
22 tube, you know, when everything is assembled tightly
23 in its original state.

24 I feel like there's more to your
25 question, but --

1 Q. I think you answered it.

2 You were asked questions and shown a few
3 of the CT images of the internal tabs within the
4 battery cells.

5 Do you remember that?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you were asked questions about
8 whether or not you would expect them to be -- to
9 have some destruction if, in fact, there was a short
10 circuit internally.

11 Do you remember that?

12 A. Yes. Yeah, I remember.

13 Q. Is there -- is it possible for the tabs
14 within the battery cells to remain intact even in
15 the occurrence of a short circuit?

16 A. Yes. And I think this is a good example
17 of that.

18 You know, to me it's clear that the
19 batteries, these two batteries -- cells exploded,
20 because the top caps are gone, the contents are
21 ejected and gone. The crimp that holds the top cap
22 is opened. So I don't think there's any reason to
23 doubt that the battery exploded open with internal
24 pressure.

25 The fact that the negative tabs appear to

1 be largely intact is -- it's unusual, but it's
2 not -- you know, their destruction is not a
3 requirement for a cell to explode.

4 Q. And if the -- there's a few facts that at
5 least you've been able to establish from your
6 involvement in the case, one of them being that
7 cells 4 and 10 exploded.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Whether it's because of an internal short
10 circuit or an external source, they exploded.

11 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

12 A. Right. It could have included due to
13 external heating. That's possible.

14 BY MR. AYALA:

15 Q. And the fact that the tabs seen on these
16 CT scans 76 and 77, the exhibits to your deposition,
17 whether the source was an internal short or external
18 fire, the fact is that they ruptured. So if you
19 expect to see them in some fashion destroyed, well,
20 then you should expect to see them destroyed whether
21 internal combustion, if you will, or an external
22 source.

23 A. Right.

24 Q. And so what 76 and 77 demonstrate is that
25 even when battery cells rupture, explode, it doesn't

1 necessarily follow that the internal tabs will be
2 destroyed. Is that fair?

3 A. That's fair. That's my interpretation of
4 this evidence.

5 Q. Is that consistent, at the very least,
6 with what you've learned and possibly even seen over
7 the course of your career with the various
8 lithium-ion research and inspections and
9 investigations that you've done?

10 A. Yes. We -- we've seen negative tabs in a
11 variety of conditions. Yeah, I don't recall the
12 whole range of conditions offhand.

13 Q. Okay. But at the very least, there was
14 some in conditions similar to what you've seen in
15 this case? Is that fair?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You were not involved in the removal of
18 the hoverboard from its original location at the
19 home, correct?

20 A. Correct.

21 Q. Whoever was involved in the removal of
22 that -- of the hoverboard from its original location
23 and its original condition, you've not spoken with
24 them?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. You don't know what components were
2 moved, changed, or otherwise, if any?

3 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

4 BY MR. AYALA:

5 Q. Is that fair?

6 A. That's fair.

7 Q. So when you're shown pictures, like CT
8 images that seem to suggest that the hoverboard was
9 not plugged in at the time of this incident, you are
10 unfamiliar with the specifics of how it is that the
11 hoverboard got from its original location to
12 ultimately being imaged, which was shown on -- let
13 me find the exhibit.

14 On Exhibit 80. Is that fair?

15 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

16 A. So specifically, I am not familiar with
17 the condition of the hoverboard prior to it arriving
18 at our office the first time, other than a few
19 photos from -- which were provided by you -- of
20 other people's investigation.

21 BY MR. AYALA:

22 Q. And you were asked early on whether you
23 had any evidence that you were relying upon relating
24 to the hoverboard being plugged in at the time of
25 incident.

1 Do you remember that?

2 A. Yes, I think so.

3 Q. And you were asked that question in
4 conjunction with whether -- you know, what
5 depositions and deposition testimony you had
6 reviewed or had not reviewed.

7 Do you remember that?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You did review the Sweetwater County
10 Sheriff's Office Public Investigative Report,
11 however, correct?

12 A. Yes, I did.

13 Q. And in that report, on what appears to be
14 page 8 of 15 of that report, it talks about
15 Detective Sheaman's involvement in his
16 investigation.

17 And a little bit south of halfway through
18 the page, the paragraph begins with, "While
19 observing."

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Okay. It says: While observing
22 electrical wiring and components in the bedroom and
23 closet, Detective Sheaman found nothing suspicious.
24 However, Detective Sheaman did notice an outlet that
25 showed that something had been inserted into the

1 lower plug. There was melted plastic covering the
2 lower plug holes and were -- and wires were coming
3 out of the melted plastic. This showed that
4 something may have been plugged into the outlet,
5 maybe a charger.

6 Do you see that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Is that, at the very least, one piece of
9 evidence that you relied upon in the totality of all
10 the other evidence, but at least one piece that you
11 relied upon for your assumption that this hoverboard
12 was plugged in at the time of incident?

13 A. Yes, this was a part of it.

14 Q. You mentioned you had not reviewed the
15 children's deposition testimonies yet, correct?

16 A. Correct.

17 Q. Is that something you anticipate looking
18 at?

19 A. I think I will.

20 Q. Okay. If there's anything that -- after
21 your review of those depositions, that changes your
22 opinions at all, will you let me know?

23 A. Of course.

24 Q. Same thing as to Detective Sheaman's. If
25 there's anything that you review that affects,

1 impacts, and changes your opinions, will you let me
2 know that?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You were asked questions about the
5 circuit board and whether or not you would expect it
6 to have some fire damage or destruction if this fire
7 began with the battery cell.

8 Do you remember some of those questions?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Similar to the questions I asked you
11 about the tires and the carpet and the wiring, if
12 this hoverboard had been attacked by an outside
13 source, by a fire from the outside, would you expect
14 the same or similar damage to the circuit board as
15 what's evident now?

16 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

17 A. With respect to an external fire reaching
18 the hoverboard, the condition of the circuit board
19 would depend on the amount of protection that it had
20 from the fire.

21 So in that case, I mean, being under --
22 under a battery pack within the board, it -- it
23 seems like it would -- it's reasonable that it could
24 also remain intact due to an external fire.

25 * * *

1 BY MR. AYALA:

2 Q. The portion of your report, Section 6,
3 that deals with -- and is titled Design, FMEA and
4 Risk Assessment, the information that you've placed
5 on page 10, 11, 12, and the first paragraph of 13,
6 is that all information that really outlines the
7 background and almost definitions of what the FMEA
8 and Risk Assessment portion or analysis is all
9 about?

10 A. Yes. It's -- it's meant to be background
11 and explanatory about FMEA, in general.

12 Q. Okay. You were asked early on in your
13 deposition about opinions that have been either
14 limited or stricken in other cases.

15 Do you remember some of that discussion?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And in particular, a case called
18 Bettencourt was discussed with you.

19 Do you remember that?

20 A. Yes, I believe so.

21 Q. And it was represented to you that in
22 that Bettencourt case, that your opinions -- at
23 least that a majority of your opinions were
24 stricken.

25 Do you remember that?

1 A. Yes. I think I was told three out of
2 five.

3 Q. Right.

4 And those -- those opinions that -- or at
5 least a portion of those opinions that were stricken
6 in the Bettencourt case -- do you recall that?

7 A. Yes, I recall it now.

8 Q. What is your recollection or
9 understanding as to what led to the striking of that
10 portion of your opinion?

11 A. The one that -- opinion that I recall
12 specifically is the FMEA opinion. And the
13 circumstances leading to that being stricken were
14 not -- it wasn't clear to me.

15 I reviewed documents produced by the
16 defendant. Those documents did not include an FMEA.
17 Therefore, I concluded that they did not perform an
18 FMEA.

19 Q. Okay. In other words, is it your
20 understanding that documents were requested relating
21 to FMEA, documents and records received relating to
22 that same request and provided to you for review,
23 and from what you received and reviewed, there was
24 no documentation to suggest or evidence FMEA being
25 performed?

1 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

2 A. Correct.

3 BY MR. AYALA:

4 Q. And your conclusion based upon what you
5 were provided, or really not provided, was that
6 proper FMEA had not been not been conducted?

7 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

8 A. That's correct.

9 BY MR. AYALA:

10 Q. And based upon that conclusion, the Court
11 did not allow your opinion?

12 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

13 A. It's not clear to me on what basis the
14 Court did not allow that opinion.

15 BY MR. AYALA:

16 Q. The opinions that you're offering in this
17 case, would it be fair to say they're based upon
18 certainly your inspection of this hoverboard?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And its components?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. As well as the pictures provided to you
23 relating to this case?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. As well as your background, your

1 training, your experience?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. As well as any additional information
4 such as investigative reports and certainly the
5 depositions that you have in your possession?

6 A. Yes, generally. To the degree that I've
7 read those.

8 Q. And any research or literature that
9 you've reviewed over the years relating specifically
10 to these issues we're talking about today with
11 lithium-ion batteries?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Based upon your inspection and the
14 totality of your investigation in this case, can you
15 conclude, more likely than not, within a reasonable
16 degree of engineering probability, that the fire
17 that we're here to talk about today originated as a
18 result of a malfunction or a defect in this battery
19 cell within the battery pack of the Wadsworth
20 hoverboard?

21 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

22 A. Yes. So overall, I think that's the most
23 likely based on -- you know, considering if a fire
24 did reach the board and consumed the board, I would
25 expect the other cells in the pack to have also

1 exploded, if explosions were the result of external
2 heating.

3 BY MR. AYALA:

4 Q. Let me see if I understood what you just
5 said.

6 If the explosion of this hoverboard was
7 due to an external heating origin, you would have
8 expected the remainder of those battery cells to
9 have further exploded?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. The fact that cells 4 and 10 were the
12 only ones that exploded, does that lead you to
13 believe that it was directly related to an internal
14 short in those cells?

15 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

16 A. More likely than not, yes.

17 BY MR. AYALA:

18 Q. Okay. The direction in which those cells
19 ruptured or exploded, does that any in way, shape,
20 or form, affect the possibility of the other battery
21 cells exploding?

22 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

23 A. No. No, I don't believe it does.

24 BY MR. AYALA:

25 Q. Okay. In the case of an internal short,

1 is it possible for isolated battery cells to explode
2 and not the entirety of the pack?

3 A. That's -- that is the expected behavior,
4 is that an isolated battery would -- that
5 experiences an internal short would -- only itself
6 would explode. It's not impossible that it could
7 cause a chain reaction, but I don't think that's --
8 that's not typical that I've seen.

9 Q. Okay. And then is it -- is it more
10 likely that when the short occurs, as in this case,
11 in two cells that are isolated, that that, then,
12 could lead to the fire -- the flames as you, I
13 believe, described it earlier, an explosion?

14 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

15 A. Right. So yes, internal shorting can
16 lead to flames and explosions.

17 BY MR. AYALA:

18 Q. Without the other cells exploding?

19 A. Right, without -- without sufficient heat
20 going into the adjacent cells and triggering
21 explosions there, right.

22 Q. Okay. You were asked early in your
23 deposition, as we looked at Exhibit 73, about the
24 possibility of the fire starting outside of the
25 boys' bedroom window.

1 Do you remember some of those questions?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And you were asked specifically about the
4 fiberglass that is beyond the wall and in between
5 some of those studs.

6 Do you remember that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And the suggestion made to you from
9 questioning was that that insulation would have, in
10 some fashion, protected the studs from burning down.

11 Do you remember that?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You were also asked questions and
14 discussed the boys' bed that was just to the other
15 side of that window.

16 Do you remember that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And the suggestion made to you was that
19 that was, in essence, fuel for the fire.

20 Do you remember that?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. If that bed caught on fire due to fire
23 coming in through that open window, would you expect
24 that the bed, which was up against that wall, would
25 have burnt or destroyed those studs more than what's

1 evidenced on page 73?

2 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

3 Exceeds this witness' expertise.

4 A. That's certainly a reasonable conclusion,
5 yes.

6 BY MR. AYALA:

7 Q. I mean, you were asked questions about
8 whether the bed acts as fuel, the effect and impact
9 of insulation on the studs burning or burning more
10 or burning less.

11 And so now I'm asking you whether or not
12 you believe that this bed catching on fire because
13 of the fire entering through the window, whether or
14 not that would have led to further burning,
15 charring, or destruction of those studs.

16 Is that something that you've seen in
17 your experience and investigations?

18 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

19 A. Sorry, that was a long question.

20 BY MR. AYALA:

21 Q. That's fine.

22 A. Could you --

23 Q. No, it's fine. Don't worry about it.

24 A. -- redo?

25 Q. Is it possible for lithium-ion batteries

1 like the one in this hoverboard to either short
2 circuit or fail while not being plugged into an
3 electrical source?

4 A. So I think it may depend on the failure
5 mode of the separator.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. Yeah. It -- I can't answer that with
8 certainty at this time.

9 Q. Well, let me ask you this: Have you
10 either seen through your own investigations and
11 inspections or learned through research or
12 literature that it is possible for lithium-ion
13 batteries to fail almost spontaneously without being
14 plugged into an electrical source?

15 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

16 A. So, you know, in many of the e-cigarette
17 cases, the battery explosions happen in people's
18 pockets, so they're not necessarily connected to --
19 they're not like in the charger being charged or in
20 the device discharging.

21 BY MR. AYALA:

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. You were asked whether or not you
25 reviewed any bodycam footage from first responders

1 in this case.

2 You didn't review any of that, right?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. Did you -- as far as your involvement and
5 the scope of your involvement goes, is that a piece
6 of evidence that you feel you need to review for any
7 reason?

8 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

9 A. Well, my understanding of my scope was
10 looking at the hoverboard evidence, you know,
11 personally, directly, to determine if -- if it was
12 consistent with a -- being an origin of fire.

13 BY MR. AYALA:

14 Q. And based upon your understanding of your
15 scope, do you believe that it -- it is -- all the
16 evidence you reviewed is consistent with the battery
17 cells of this hoverboard being, at the very least,
18 the cause of this fire?

19 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

20 A. More likely.

21 BY MR. AYALA:

22 Q. More likely than not?

23 A. Than not, yes.

24 Q. Okay. As far as the questions asked of
25 you regarding V patterns and inverted cone patterns

1 and all of that stuff, you're relying on other
2 experts in the case to talk about those components
3 of fire damage; is that fair?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Regarding any of the hypotheticals of the
6 fire originating outside or in some other location,
7 the only thing you're here to talk about is the fire
8 originating in this battery cell based upon your
9 observations, inspection, and investigation. Is
10 that true?

11 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

12 A. Yes, that's my understanding of why I'm
13 here.

14 BY MR. AYALA:

15 Q. And despite UL listings and
16 certifications, you believe that this battery pack,
17 and specifically the battery cells 4 and 10 within
18 the pack, were defective?

19 A. Yes. So that -- that gets into a deeper
20 root cause which we did not get into, but, you know,
21 we would need to look at also if the battery cells
22 and battery management system design were, let's
23 say, appropriate, for the usage, for the loads being
24 drawn and the power -- sorry, the charge and
25 discharge cycles experienced.

1 So it -- it may not be that the cell was
2 specifically defective, but maybe as part of the
3 overall design, it may not have been the appropriate
4 cell to use.

5 Q. All in all, can we at least agree that in
6 a consumer product like this hoverboard, that the
7 battery pack integrated into it should not explode?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And it's your belief, based upon your
10 background, training, experience, and review in this
11 case, that the battery pack in this case did
12 explode, which led to the fire at the Wadsworth home
13 more likely than not?

14 A. More likely than not.

15 MR. AYALA: Okay. Thank you, sir.

16 Those are all of my questions.

17 MR. LAFLAMME: So I have some
18 follow-ups, as you might expect.

19 -----

20 EXAMINATION

21 -----

22 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

23 Q. Tell me every single lithium-ion battery
24 fire case that you have worked on.

25 A. So with regard -- so the lithium-ion

1 battery cases that I've worked on, I believe the
2 vast majority of them involved at least a fire of
3 the cell but not necessarily a structure fire.

4 Q. You mentioned e-cigarettes.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. How many of those cases have you worked
7 on, that involved an ignition through the
8 lithium-ion battery?

9 A. I would estimate dozens. Many.

10 Q. All right. Any in which you've been the
11 lead investigator?

12 A. No.

13 Q. So in each of those, you've been an
14 assistant investigator?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you would not have authored a report
17 for any of those e-cigarette cases that you've just
18 referenced, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. And you wouldn't have provided any
21 testimony with respect to any e-cigarette cases,
22 correct?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. How many lithium-ion batteries are in an
25 e-cig?

1 A. Ranges from one to -- one or two is the
2 most common.

3 Q. What's the UL standard applicable to
4 e-cigarettes?

5 A. I don't recall the number.

6 Q. It's not UL 2272, is it?

7 A. No.

8 Q. So aside from the e-cigarette cases in
9 which you have assisted others, we're aware of the
10 one other hoverboard in which -- case in which you
11 assisted one of your co-workers, correct?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And then this case, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. Does that run the full list?

16 MR. AYALA: Form.

17 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

18 Q. Does that run the full list of
19 lithium-ion battery fire cases that you have worked
20 on?

21 A. There were some e-bike, electric bike.

22 Q. Were there e-bike fires?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Okay. How many of those have you worked
25 on?

1 A. One, I remember distinctly, but I believe
2 there may have been one or two more.

3 Q. You were not the primary expert on
4 either -- any of those, were you?

5 A. Correct.

6 Q. You have never authored a report related
7 to an e-bike fire case, have you?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. You have not provided any testimony
10 related to an e-bike fire case, correct?

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. You were merely an assistant to someone
13 else on those e-bike fire cases, correct?

14 MR. AYALA: Form.

15 A. Correct.

16 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

17 Q. And, in fact, you weren't even a
18 professional engineer until last year, correct?

19 A. Correct.

20 Q. Have we now exhausted the list of all of
21 the lithium-ion battery fire cases that you've
22 worked on?

23 A. I believe so.

24 Q. So the only one in which you have
25 actually authored a report related to an alleged

1 lithium-ion battery case is this one?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And the only one in which you've ever sat
4 for a deposition related to a lithium-ion -- an
5 alleged lithium-ion battery fire is this case,
6 correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And the only case in which you've been
9 named as an expert, disclosed as an expert for a
10 lithium-ion battery case, involving an alleged fire
11 is this one?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. You indicated that you considered the
14 possibility of the fire not starting at the
15 hoverboard as part of your investigation in this to
16 Attorney Ayala.

17 Do you recall that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. But then later, you said the scope of
20 your work was to only look at the hoverboard
21 evidence, correct?

22 A. Was to look at the hoverboard evidence to
23 see if it is consistent or not with internal -- with
24 being a fire origin.

25 Q. You have not done anything to assess

1 whether the fire could have started at the smoking
2 shed, correct?

3 A. Correct.

4 Q. And the only physical evidence that you
5 have looked at is the hoverboard, correct?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And you'll agree that lithium-ion battery
8 cells can fail when they are subject to an external
9 fire attack?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you don't -- you haven't done any
12 assessment to determine how this fire may have moved
13 through the Wadsworth structure, correct?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. One of the things that you said is that
16 an internal short within a lithium-ion battery
17 should only affect that singular cell.

18 Do you recall that?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And in this case, you're saying that two
21 singular cells had a short circuit, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. So at substantially the same time, two
24 different cells in two different parts of this
25 battery pack had a failure of the separators within

1 those individual cells, correct?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And they had a failure of the separator
4 at substantially the same time to the extent that
5 they both short-circuited at substantially the same
6 time.

7 That's your theory, correct?

8 A. That's what it -- that's what it appears
9 to be.

10 Q. Have you ever had another case where two
11 individual cells short-circuited at the same time?

12 A. No.

13 Q. That would be pretty unusual, wouldn't
14 it?

15 MR. AYALA: Form.

16 A. It's unusual, so far.

17 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

18 Q. Meaning you have to have an individual
19 failure within cell 4, at substantially the same
20 time as you have an individual but completely
21 separate failure at cell 10, correct?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. That's what you're saying in this case.

24 MR. AYALA: Form.

25 He's said what he's saying.

1 A. Yes. Yes. I believe it's a coincidence,
2 but that's what appears to have occurred.

3 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

4 Q. Have you done any research to determine
5 the percentage chance of that coincidence?

6 A. No.

7 MR. AYALA: Form.

8 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

9 Q. The individual cell itself, the
10 conditions that we see cells 4 and 10 in after the
11 fire, those conditions would have the same
12 appearance if it was an external fire attack as
13 well, correct?

14 A. Yes. For those individual cells, yes.

15 Q. Meaning when lithium-ion battery cells
16 fail in a fire due to a fire attack, the appearance
17 is similar to what we see the two cells that have
18 failed in this case.

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. You were asked if it's possible to have a
21 short -- an internal short with the cell -- or,
22 sorry, with the hoverboard not plugged in.

23 Do you recall that?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. You'd agree with me that it's very

1 difficult to have an internal short circuit if the
2 hoverboard is not plugged in, correct?

3 MR. AYALA: Form.

4 A. Yes. It's a low likelihood --

5 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

6 Q. It's a very low --

7 A. -- versus --

8 Q. Sorry, go ahead.

9 A. Than versus if it was plugged in and
10 charging.

11 Q. And the reason being because there's no
12 continuous energy provided to those cells if the
13 hoverboard is not plugged in, correct?

14 MR. AYALA: Form.

15 A. That's -- I mean, that's a way to put it,
16 yes.

17 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

18 Q. One of the things that you had indicated
19 to Attorney Ayala was that if you were to look at a
20 further root analysis, there may be an issue with
21 the cell not being the appropriate cell to use?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Do you have any indication that the
24 lithium-ion battery cells utilized in this battery
25 pack were not appropriate for its application?

1 A. I have not collected the data to make
2 that determination yet.

3 Q. You understand that the hoverboard as a
4 whole, in order to be UL 2272, needs to specify the
5 battery pack and cells that are going to be used,
6 correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And you understand that this hoverboard
9 was UL 2272 certified, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So you don't have any evidence that the
12 cells that were utilized for this hoverboard were
13 not the correct cells, correct?

14 A. Right. I haven't done that investigation
15 level yet.

16 Q. You talked with Mr. Ayala about the
17 wiring that was adjacent to the battery pack, and
18 how it was associated with the wheel, correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And that you wouldn't expect that wiring
21 to be energized unless the hoverboard is being used.

22 A. Right.

23 Q. There would have been wires energized
24 within the hoverboard if the hoverboard had been
25 plugged in even not in use, correct?

1 MR. AYALA: Form.

2 A. Yes, I believe there would be.

3 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

4 Q. Meaning if the hoverboard is plugged in,
5 while some of the wires may not be energized, there
6 would certainly be some internal wires that are
7 energized when it's plugged in?

8 A. Yes, the -- let's see. There would be,
9 at least from the charger port into probably the
10 DMS. And that's probably at a fairly low
11 energization, if the battery -- if it's fully
12 charged.

13 Q. That section of wiring, though, would
14 have power to it, correct, meaning it would be
15 energized?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And it would be energized to the extent
18 that had it been attacked by fire while plugged in,
19 you could see an arc in that area?

20 MR. AYALA: Form.

21 A. That -- that, I don't -- I don't know if
22 that's true offhand.

23 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

24 Q. Okay. Regardless, I think we agree,
25 there wasn't any arcing that was found on any of the

1 internal wiring in the hoverboard, correct?

2 A. That's true.

3 Q. And there wasn't any arcing found on the
4 house wiring immediately adjacent to where the
5 hoverboard was located, correct?

6 A. Not that I read about.

7 Q. As an expert doing an investigation, you
8 agree that it's important to have as much
9 information as you can about the fire loss, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 MR. AYALA: Form.

12 A. In general, yes.

13 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

14 Q. I mean, as an engineer, you want all the
15 information that's available, right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you want to have the opportunity to
18 review all the information that's available during
19 your investigation.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. You don't want parts of the
22 investigation -- or parts of whatever information is
23 available to be hidden from you, correct?

24 MR. AYALA: Form.

25 A. True.

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. And you agree with me that there were a
3 number of documents that you've seen here today that
4 you had not seen prior to today, correct?

5 A. True. Yes.

6 Q. And you indicated that you have not seen
7 any photographs from the lab inspection at Palmer's
8 lab, correct?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Are you aware at all of what
11 Mrs. Wadsworth's activities were the evening before
12 and in the early morning hours before the fire?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you know that she had smoked in that
15 smoking shed a couple of hours before this fire was
16 reported?

17 A. No.

18 MR. AYALA: Form.

19 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

20 Q. Are you first learning that right now?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you know that she had upwards of ten
23 alcoholic drinks that evening?

24 MR. AYALA: Form.

25 A. No.

1 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

2 Q. You are first learning about that now?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Were there any outside studies or
5 standards that you relied on that were not
6 referenced in your report?

7 A. I mean, there's literature that I have
8 read that's part of my general kind of background
9 knowledge at this point, but --

10 Q. So what is that --

11 A. -- the --

12 Q. Sorry. Go ahead.

13 A. Just that wasn't specific to this case.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. As far as the literature that you have
17 read over your career as general background
18 knowledge, any of it that you would reference or
19 cite as specific to this case?

20 A. Not -- I think it's applicable. It's
21 applicable information, but I'm not really more
22 specific than that.

23 Q. Applicable in what way?

24 A. Well, there are some 20 -- I want to say
25 around 20 -- I want to say 2015 articles on thermal

1 runaway within battery packs. So those were, you
2 know, it was done in the lab, and people wrote
3 papers about it.

4 Q. When you say 2015, you're talking about
5 the year?

6 A. Yes. Yeah.

7 Q. And that's kind of when lithium-ion
8 battery products were being introduced to the
9 market, correct?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. So back in 2015 when a lot of these
12 products were first being introduced to the market,
13 there were some articles about how there were some
14 issues with the products from a potential fire
15 perspective?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. Are those the articles that you're
18 talking about?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And as a result of those issues back in
21 2014-15 and those articles, you understand that UL
22 then got involved and created some standards for
23 products that utilize lithium-ion batteries,
24 correct?

25 A. That sounds reasonable. I'm not really

1 familiar with UL's initiating motivation.

2 Q. Well, one of those standards was UL 2272,
3 applicable to -- or at least that hoverboards fall
4 under.

5 MR. AYALA: Form.

6 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

7 Q. Correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Do you know when that standard was first
10 issued?

11 A. No.

12 Q. You don't know if it was put together in
13 2016 and became effective early 2017? You don't
14 know the initial date for UL 2272?

15 A. I don't.

16 Q. Would it surprise you to know that
17 Detective Sheaman was not aware of a smoking shed
18 outside the boys' bedroom?

19 MR. AYALA: Form.

20 A. I suppose that would be surprising.

21 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

22 Q. You would expect an origin and cause
23 investigator to fully process the scene before they
24 issue any opinions, correct?

25 MR. AYALA: Form.

1 A. Yeah. I think that sounds reasonable.

2 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

3 Q. And you would expect an origin and cause
4 investigator to review body camera footage that was
5 taken by his own department where some of the
6 individuals involved in the fire made statements
7 about where they first saw the fire, correct?

8 MR. AYALA: Form.

9 A. Yeah. Certainly at some point.

10 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

11 Q. It would be important to your analysis to
12 know if the statements from the Wadsworth children
13 immediately after the fire on that morning on body
14 camera footage stated that the fire started outside?

15 MR. AYALA: Form.

16 A. That would be -- that would be a good bit
17 of information to know.

18 MR. LAFLAMME: I think that's all the
19 questions I have for now, sir. Thank you.

20 -----

21 EXAMINATION

22 -----

23 BY MR. AYALA:

24 Q. So assume with me that the kids made
25 statements as they're sitting outside of their home

1 burning, on fire, next to their mother, whose body
2 is almost completely burnt at the time, assume with
3 me that their statements were that they believe the
4 fire started outside.

5 Do you then, as an expert in your field,
6 with your scope of practice, ignore the findings of
7 your inspection?

8 A. Certainly not my inspection of the board.
9 We'd proceed in the same way, regardless of witness
10 statements.

11 Q. You don't ignore the results of your
12 inspection and the experience and your background
13 and your training when coming to the conclusions
14 that you do?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. You were asked whether or not you knew
17 that Stephanie Wadsworth smoked the night of the
18 fire in that shed, whether you knew that she drank
19 alcohol the night of the fire, again, even assuming
20 all of that to be true in the way it was
21 characterized to you, do you then ignore the results
22 of your own hands-on inspection and no longer rely
23 upon those facts that you yourself have analyzed?

24 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

25 A. Right. I still am reliant upon my own

1 review of evidence, especially what I have seen
2 firsthand.

3 BY MR. AYALA:

4 Q. What opposing counsel didn't tell you is
5 that she also testified that the space heater in
6 that shed was off.

7 Did you know that?

8 A. No, I didn't -- I wasn't aware of the
9 state of the heater.

10 Q. And that any cigarette that she smoked
11 was off. Did you know that?

12 A. I wasn't aware either way if she was
13 smoking.

14 Q. Despite seeing some additional documents
15 that you were shown today and have been attached to
16 your deposition, did any of those documents in any
17 way, shape, or form, change your analysis or your
18 conclusions in this case?

19 A. So far, no. I mean, we talked earlier,
20 that achieving UL approval for a given standard
21 isn't a guarantee of -- isn't a guarantee of safety.
22 It's certainly good to do, but it's not a guarantee.
23 And despite the certification, I still have the --
24 you know, my review of the evidence.

25 Q. And we know it's not a guarantee, because

1 as opposing counsel established, Jetson itself
2 recalled their Rogue models that were UL 2272 and
3 2580 certified, right?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And by the way, you were asked about the
6 external fire attack and this -- as they like to
7 paint it, this phenomena that two cells, almost
8 simultaneously, short-circuited and how rare that
9 might be.

10 If this hoverboard was attacked by fire,
11 wouldn't it be equally as rare that only cells 4 and
12 10 exploded?

13 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

14 A. Right. If these cells are susceptible to
15 explosion due to external heating, then I would
16 expect more -- most of the cells that were also
17 exposed to fire to also explode.

18 BY MR. AYALA:

19 Q. And so what makes the most sense is that
20 within those individual cells, 4 and 10, that they
21 had specific issues, individually, which caused them
22 to malfunction; i.e., explode?

23 MR. LAFLAMME: Object to form.

24 A. So that's -- that's the conclusion I
25 reached for saying it's more likely that the cells

1 were an origin for fire.

2 That's all. I've lost my train of
3 thought.

4 MR. AYALA: Okay. That's it. Thank
5 you.

6 -----

7 EXAMINATION

8 -----

9 BY MR. LAFLAMME:

10 Q. With respect to the Jetson Rogue and the
11 recall that it underwent, you said you don't know
12 the circumstances of the Kaufman fire, correct?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. And you don't know whether there was an
15 aftermarket charger that was used for the Kaufman
16 use of that -- or charging of the hoverboard,
17 correct?

18 A. Correct.

19 Q. And as far as you are aware, there's no
20 potential issue with an improper charger or
21 aftermarket charger being used by the Wadsworth
22 family in this case?

23 MR. AYALA: Form.

24 A. I'm not aware.

25 * * *

1 BY MR. AYALA:

2 Q. You haven't seen any evidence that the
3 Wadsworth family purchased an aftermarket charger
4 for this hoverboard, correct?

5 A. Correct.

6 MR. LAFLAMME: Okay. That's all I
7 have. Thank you.

8 MR. AYALA: We'll read. And I'm sure
9 it will be ordered. I'll take an e-tran copy.
10 Thank you.

11 THE STENOGRAPHER: When do you need
12 it?

13 MR. LAFLAMME: This week. By Friday
14 is fine. I'll give you a full week.

15 THE STENOGRAPHER: Do you need yours
16 by Friday as well, Mr. Ayala?

17 MR. AYALA: Sure. Why not.

18 (Time noted: 3:46 p.m. PDT)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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I, DEBRA A. DIBBLE, RDR, CRR, CRC, Notary
Public, do hereby certify:

That DEREK A. KING, M.S., P.E., the witness
whose deposition is hereinbefore set forth, was duly
sworn by me and that such deposition is a true
record of the testimony given by such witness;

That pursuant to FRCP Rule 30, signature of
the witness was requested by the witness or other
party before the conclusion of the deposition;

I further certify that I am not related to any
of the parties to this action by blood or marriage,
and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of
this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
hand on this 23rd day of August, 2024.

Debra Dibble

Debra A. Dibble
Fellow of the Academy of Professional Reporters
Registered Diplomate Reporter
Certified Realtime Reporter
Notary Public 11/17/2027
CA 14345

1 I HEREBY CERTIFY that I have read
2 this transcript of my deposition, and that
3 this transcript accurately states the testimony
4 given by me, with the changes or corrections, if
5 any, as noted.

6

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10 X _____

11 DEREK A. KING, M.S., P.E.

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1 ERRATA SHEET FOR THE TRANSCRIPT OF:

2 CASE NAME: Wadsworth v Walmart

3 DEP DATE: August 19, 2024

4 DEPONENT: DEREK A. KING, M.S., P.E.

5 Pg.	Ln.	Now Reads	Should Read	Reason
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25			DEREK A. KING, M.S., P.E.	

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